The Land Revenue Commissioner will issue the necessary instructions in the matter immediately. It will be seen that Government have by these measures largely carried out the spirit of the resolution of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee.

By order,
(Sd.) K. GEORGE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

1. The Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner.
2. The Dewan Peishkars of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam, and the Commissioner, Devicolam.
3. The President, Economic Depression Enquiry Committee.
4. The Gazette.
5. The Press Room.
6. The Account Officer.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now we will proceed to the general discussion of the Budget for 1107. Each member is allowed 20 minutes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, one is inclined to thank the Financial Secretary for the lengthy statement he has given us which also though out of place provides useful information on medicine and public health. But the prospect revealed by the statement is very gloomy and, under the circumstances, one is tempted to look back for the causes of this financial crisis which has caused so much gloom. Sir, criticisms offered from time to time by this side of the House actuated by the highest motives of common good and national advancement have been disregarded; warnings given in friendly and even respectful spirit have been unheeded; and suggestions calculated to contribute to a better understanding between the people and the Government on matters vitally affecting the finances of the State have been brushed aside. And the Government are functioning as if unmindful of the intensity of the feeling that has permeated even the illiterate masses that above all this Legislative Council is a show, another costly piece of ornamentation on the edifice of administration just as our Departments of Industry and Agriculture. Now the non-official members have been asking the Government to be more careful and economical in dealing with the funds of the State. Specific items of probable expenditure that the Government might be called upon to undertake in the immediate future consistent with the spirit of the times and also the improved outlook of affairs have been brought to their notice and also the minutest details of possible savings have been specifically pointed out. But the abnormal growth of expenditure under establishment, salaries and allowances, the retention, at a heavy cost, of departments condemned by

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all right-minded people and above all the lack of a steady and permanent financial policy on the part of the administrators have only tended to strengthen the conviction that the administration of the country is being carried on on lines not conducive to the general welfare of the governed. As I said, things have been growing from bad to worse due to reasons beyond our control, and I believe also beyond the intellectual range of our Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, which one is led to believe has conducted even 'archaeological' investigations this terrible depression has set in. The Financial Secretary trained by an over-sanguine Government to view the future in glorious colours as distinct from the dark present has approached us with a statement which mocks at the very person who is responsible for its production. Sir, this valuable document contains all materials for a romance—expectations unfulfilled, anticipations unrealised, interventions of evil fate; but bright honeymoon days far ahead.

It was in 1097 or 1098 that you yourself sounded a note of caution for the benefit of the Government.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whom the member means by saying 'you'?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I refer to the President of the day. He was the Deputy President then. You observed, Sir, "as regards the revenues under Excise, Stamps, Registration and Land Revenue that the limits of taxation have been reached." And any further taxation has to be deprecated. Since then though there was an all-too-temporary rise in Excise and a similar rise also in the non-recurring item of expenditure under Land Revenue namely the sale of Government lands, the decrease from year to year has been both steady and systematic for the last ten years. Since those observations were made by you, one might in vain look up the Administration Reports and also the Financial Secretary's statements from time to time for any intelligent, honest or earnest attempt made by the Government for the betterment of the finances of this State. I believe that the terrible poverty into which we are sunk to-day is not as much due to world-wide conditions as to the lack of statesmanship on the part of the administrators who are responsible for the Government of this country.

I shall illustrate what I said from a consideration of the speech of the Financial Secretary himself. We see that the year 1106 would have closed with a deficit of 17·59 lakhs of rupees had it not been for the relentless cut of 4 lakhs in the Public Works Department and also for the postponement for the second or third time the payment of arrears of pay due to the poor Vernacular School teachers. The Financial Secretary would have us believe that the revenues anticipated for the next year will only be 99,000 rupees minus the revenues already realised during the year. But it should be noted that that statement is wrong.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Where do you get that 99,000 rupees from?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I quote from the speech of the Financial Secretary. When it was said

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that the difference between the revised estimate for 1106 and the estimated revenue for 1107 is ·99 lakh of rupees, the Account Officer failed to take into consideration the tax on Kandukrishi lands which fell due in the year 1105 but which was collected only this year. As for the forecast for 1107, I will be able to prove easily that the standards assumed by the Financial Secretary for the various items of revenue are a bit fallacious; nobody would take him seriously when he says that he expects to realise Rs. 4 lakhs under sale of Government lands, for he himself has said in many places of his speech that the present crisis is likely to continue. And I have known instances of registered puduval lands being offered at present for 10 or 15 rupees per acre. As conditions now obtain there is no near prospect of realising four lakhs of rupees by sale of Government lands.

The abnormal *low rates* on which markets are being auctioned, the fall in the price of foodstuffs and cocoanuts, the decrease of the yield of Kuthagapattom lands - all these must considerably bring down the land revenue next year.

There would be a greater fall in income tax than that anticipated by the Financial Secretary due to the very same reasons. Due to the lower rates of tariff and also to the disappearance of the buying capacity of the world we are going to get a heavy fall in customs also. The continuing dullness of timber markets as also the scarcity of timber in Travancore Forests is sure to bring down the forest revenue to a larger measure than that anticipated by the Financial Secretary. As for the Traffic Department, I may assure the House we are not going to get anything substantial out of it, for the pecuniary ruin of those who are already in the enterprise aresufficiently terrible to repel fresh adventurers in the field. About railways, the less said the better. But still the Financial Secretary hopes to get something out of that also. The excise revenue is bound to go down at a more rapid pace this year due to reasons mentioned by the Financial Secretary himself.

I think, Sir, I have exhausted all the items of revenue relied on by the Financial Secretary for purposes of his Budget for the next year and my calculation is—and here I think I can even claim greater precision than the Financial Secretary—that we should consider ourselves fortunate if we would be able to realise atithe end of 1107 Rs. 219·69 lakhs.

Coming now to the expenditure side of the Budget, the expenditure estimated for the year 1107 is Rs. 231·66 lakhs. That means a deficit of about Rs. 12 lakhs towards the close of 1107. Thanks to the activities of the Government in the years 1105, 1106 and 1107, the Government account balance which stood at 117·13 lakhs towards the close of 1104 would come down by 40 lakhs.

Now, it would not be out of place for me to suggest some possible economies that might be effected in the administrative machinery without in any way imparing the tone or the character of the administration. I am afraid my suggestions might be considered to be too drastic. But in the interests of the solvency of the State I am going to conquer

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my own personal feelings and call a spade a spade. There are some limbs of administration which must be amputated and others on which a careful operation may not be out of place. The two departments that I propose to abolish are the departments of Agriculture and Industries. I do not mean any disparagement to the worthy and amiable officers who perhaps for no fault of theirs are placed at the head of those two departments and who incur the odium of inefficiency and who earn their bread with far too little sweat on their brows. I speak of them in this order because of the chronological order in which those departments came into existence and I do not mean to imply that one is more useful than the other. When I suggest the abolition of these two departments I am aware of the argument of seed-bull propaganda work or of the industrial survey that might be brought forward against me from the Government benches. But I would ask every member of this House, I would include even the Directors, I would ask them to lay their hands on their breasts and say consistently with the solemn oath taken before they took their seats in this House whether the expenditure lavished on these two departments is justified. I would still be confronted with the stock argument that these are not commercial concerns and as such ought not to be viewed from the point of view of a Director of Joint Stock Companies. Who can be optimistic in the circumstances when as in the case of the Department of Industries there are six officers on Rs. 400 and above as against only 5 officers in the Land Revenue Department which is the premier department in the State and another set of 18 officers on Rs. 100 and above. Two-thirds of the allotment of this Department is consumed by the pay of the officials and only one-third is left for the purchase of machinery, tools, books, Anchal charges and everything required.

As regards the Agricultural Department there are 24 officers on Rs. 150 and above as against 20 in the Huzur, 15 in the Excise Department, 8 in the Forest, 4 in the Registration Department and one in the Anchal Department, with a very vide margin of Rs. 22,000 under wages to coolies. I think that the time has come for the Financial Secretary to be persuaded to offer even Satyagraha at the doors of the experts so that they may not be allowed to move out for the purpose of saving the amounts sanctioned under T. A. for them. I have got another suggestion as regards these experts. I think that they may be allowed by the Government to go out and start their own industries and agricultural enterprises with funds lent by the Government on the most extraordinary concessions so that they may not be a source of trouble to us in the near future. (Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai : *Hear, hear*). As for the Conservator of Forests I would request the Government to give a definite assurance to him that his pay would not be reduced even if he shows only a lower income in regard to the sale of timber from our forests. We have to reserve these timbers for future occasions when the market conditions will improve. So the Conservator of Forests should not be allowed to convert his official appellation into a misnomer because he is Conservator of Forests and not a destroyer of Forests.

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[Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai.]

Then the rapidity with which personal assistants are allowed to be born in this country defying all theories of contraception and the confused crowd of office managers, head clerks, head accountants, etc., one placed above the other, all in one office or more accurately with equal responsibilities—all these things show how far Government adhere to the principle of economy in financial matters. I am sure, Sir, that even the most ardent advocate of Government would be hard put to it to justify the continued existence of this class of officers known as A. S. P's on Rs. 17,000 and odd per year who serve only to increase the places of worship to which the aggrieved have to go, probably in the true oriental spirit of worship and pilgrimage, and a good number of Assistant Excise Commissioners consuming Rs. 32,000 a year, most of whom having got jurisdiction under them which could be footed out in a day. All these show the line of progressive irresponsibility pursued by Government in matters financial.

Then I would invite the attention of the House to a very stunning problem involved in these financial matters. When Indians are appointed to places which were more or less reserved for Europeans, the people in general took it as signifying a welcome departure in the policy of Government. But this hope proved false quite suddenly. We see Europeans more of them coming, on higher pay than formerly, so much so, one could not believe me when I say that we spend about a lakh and fifty thousand on seven European Heads of Departments in the State, with another quarter of a lakh reserved for the Railway Engineer. I should not be taken to go against the accepted policy of civilised Governments, when I say, that the number of officers in the Education Department on Rs. 100 and above might be attempted to be brought down from its present strength of 526 which probably is far in excess of all the officers of similar grades in all the branches of administration put together.

Sir, I am done. I have only to add a word or two regarding a matter which I consider to be very important. The Commerce is probably the most important factor in building the future of a nation and the time is come when the Government have to come out of their shell, deviate from the beaten track, look far beyond and take a wider outlook of affairs. Travancore is a country which enjoys export trade to the value of eleven and a half crores per year. But the producers and the exporters here do not get the benefit of this, on account of the fact that they are ignorant of the movements of prices in foreign markets and conditions obtaining there.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I want only a minute more to wind up my speech.

The Government of India have, in pursuance of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Legislative Assembly, appointed their own Trade Commissioners in London, Hamburg, and in Milan. Coming to Native States, the Native State of Mysore with a less volume of

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export trade, has appointed her own Trade Commissioner a couple of years back, and the work he has done for Mysore products is a matter of common knowledge. Here, not only from the non-official point of view, but from the official point of view also, Sir, the Government invest very huge amounts year to year upon medicines, tools, machinery and all that. If we have a man on the spot who would be responsible to the State he would be able to go to different competitive Firms so that he may get these articles at cheaper rates. I am in touch with some of those who have trading business in Alleppey and they say that they have to pay heavy claims on goods exported. So, if we have a man there on the spot who would be able to deal with matters carefully, he will be useful to the State. I do not know how far these problems will be solved and with what mentality these problems will be approached by Government. With these, I resume my seat.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, the honourable member for Kottarakara *cum* Kunnattur, who has just spoken, if I heard him a right, thanked the Finance Member for the statement that he made on Saturday. I shall not do him the injustice of insinuating that he has allowed personal considerations to get the better of his judgment on matters financial. I suppose that it is a convention of this House that those who intervene in the early stages of the general disscussion on the Budget, should begin their observations with a somewhat copious shower of compliments on the honourable Finance Member, especially in those years in which he happens to show a revenue surplus.

My radical, or shall I say my revolutionary instinct, does not quite permit me to do anything of the kind. The late Mr. Gokhale, a very distinguished economist, often used to complain of the jugglery of Finance Members, in the Government of India, the jugglery that used to produce what I may call the mangoe tree-trick of surpluses. Most of us know that surpluses are the result of a vigorous and arbitrary application of the blue pencil. The position of a Finance Member is altogether different from the position of the *pater familias*. The immortal character in Dickens, Micawber, used to be worried by the prospect of decreased income and increased expenditure. Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai, who occupies his comfortable seat on the Treasury Bench over there, can well afford to snap his fingers at any financial or economic debacle that stops short of the entire annihilation of civil government. The question of personal liability in the one case, and the absence of personal liability in the other, makes their respective positions so different. The difference is to the advantage of the Finance Member. But I do not say that it is to his credit, for I believe that irresponsibility is as much to be deprecated in the official as in the agitator. The Finance Member promises us a small surplus of Rs. 53,000. I dare say he has not had much difficulty in contriving that gift to his Government. I say, Sir, '*his*' advisedly, for, here in Travancore—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it the opinion of the member that it is the Government of the Financial Secretary, or it is the Government of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent?

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MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I do not hear the honourable member.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from the member whether it is his opinion that this is the Government of the Financial Secretary or that of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am putting all responsibility on the Financial Secretary for his statement. The member should know that I am not writing a treatise on political science. I am only speaking of the Financial Secretary's responsibilities as Finance Member.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Finance Member is not the correct expression. To be more correct, please, address him as Financial Secretary.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Standing Order 57 says "The Financial Member, etc."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Financial Secretary is the proper form.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I have absolutely no quarrel with the Chair. If there could be a Law Member why not Finance Member also? The Standing Order uses the expression Financial Member. But Finance Member seems to me to be better English. So I used it. I bow to your ruling.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The other is equally objectionable. Financial Secretary is the correct expression.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): The Financial Secretary, I dare say, had very little difficulty in contriving this small surplus. As I pointed out before, it is a gift to Government which he serves. In other civilised countries where responsible Government obtains, it is the claim of the tax-payer that is paramount and it is his voice that reigns supreme. But here there is nothing of the kind and it is a peculiar and distressing sign of the times that our Financial Secretary produced a surplus Budget. Now that is with regard to the national budget, with a nominal surplus of Rs. 53,000. Sir, I ask what is the position with regard to our family budget. These simple instruments disclose a terrible and unexampled deficit and by the side of these pathetic documents, this sordid and sinister document with a surplus of Rs. 53,000 stands condemned at the invisible bar of public opinion. The year 1106 is not a year of Grace. It is a year of disgrace and distress. The year 1931 is not of the Lord's. It belongs to the devil and to the officials. I am at a loss to know who has the better claim on it. But there is an old proverb that there is honour even among thieves and I shall leave these people to adjust their competing claims with honour to themselves. Now in the financial year 1107 we have met here to-day to discuss the Budget and we are meeting here in the gloom of a terrible economic depression. Even our Government cannot gainsay that fact. The present economic depression is the most terrible of its kind since the Napoleonic wars. In India this depression beats a similar depression of 1908 and under these circumstances it is that the Finance Member comes to us with a surplus of Rs. 53,000. I cannot within the limited time at my disposal enter into a detailed

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criticism of the Budget. I had prayed for and expected a deficit Budget in the peculiar situation in which the country is placed. But as our esteemed Financial Secretary anticipates a modest surplus it is necessary on general grounds to subject the basis on which he conducts his operations to a somewhat independent and searching scrutiny within the restricted scope and time which the rules and the constitution of this House allow me. He who takes a most casual glance at the budgeted figures for the last five years would have very distressing thoughts. Now our ordinary revenue for the last five years stood as follows :—

By the term 'ordinary revenue' I mean all that revenue which is distinct from the capital account receipts and this system of bifurcating the revenue accounts was introduced in 1102 and I have taken 1103 as the starting point. The ordinary revenue then was Rs. 242·29 lakhs, in 1104, 251·16 lakhs ;

in 1105, 247·23 lakhs ;

in 1106 the revised estimate is 233·18 lakhs ; and for the ensuing year 232·19 lakhs.

Now these figures for the last five years including the present Budget year show that our revenue has been subject to very great vicissitudes. It shows sharp rise and sharp fall in turn. As against this we observe that our expenditure has steadily and swiftly been rising in the last five years. Now look at that picture. In 1103, the ordinary expenditure, that is expenditure charged to revenue, stood at Rs. 218·4 lakhs

In 1104	...	227 lakhs, 9 lakhs more.
In 1105	...	240 lakhs, 13 lakhs more.

In 1106, the year of depression ... 240·65 lakhs, a trifle over the expenditure in 1105. In 1107, 231·66 lakhs. Now, that betrays a very unpleasant scheme of things in my opinion. Here on the one side, our expenditure steadily and swiftly rises and on the other side, looking at the figures, one notes with dissatisfaction the varied nature of our receipts. Now, if you compare the receipts with the disbursements in particular years, I am sure that an impartial critic would be surprised at the absolutely erratic course of our expenditure. In the quinquinium which is under my special review just now our expenditure stood in 1103 at 218.4 lakhs. That was the lowest figure on record during the last five years. But the highest income in the revenue was recorded in 1104 and the year in which the expenditure stood at the lowest figure the corresponding income was not the lowest. But it was the highest budgeted. In 1105, our expenditure stood at the highest figure and then in 1105 our revenue did not record the highest figure. The highest revenue is recorded in the year 1104 and that is 251·16 lakhs. Now the point that I wish to make from these individual comparisons between revenue and expenditure is that an enhanced expenditure does not necessarily lead to enhanced efficiency. As I have already remarked, our expenditure stood at the lowest figure in these five years, in 1103. But, Sir, who will be prepared to say that the efficiency of our administration

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[Mr. O. M. Thomas.]

also stood at the lowest point in 1103. I venture to say that our administration in 1103 was as efficient as in any other year or, to be more precise both in manner and matter, I would say that our administration in 1103 was as inefficient as in any other year. That theory that the expenditure increases year by year does not establish the case that the efficiency of the administration also proportionately increases. What I contend is, from the study of the figures and from the experience of the past administration, I am at a loss to know whether there is any action and reaction between our revenue and expenditure. In regard to the so-called nation-building departments the amounts expended on them are on a colossal scale—colossal because when we judge of the return it is an absolute waste of money. Sir, then how is it that our expenditure year after year mounts higher and higher. It is a very sorry tale to tell. It rises because of salaries and allowances. It is a very distressing state of affairs.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I think the member forgets that there has been an increase in expenditure on Public Works.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is the member replying to Mr. Thomas?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, being a new member of the House I am at a loss to know whether an exasperating undertone is the peculiar privilege of the official member over there. I did not hear a word of what he said. If the member wants any answer from me I am ready to give him. But he must be audible (*Laughter*).

On a rough calculation, 50% of our entire revenue is expended on salaries and allowances. The other day I read a pointed criticism urged against the Egyptian Government and the criticism was that 43% of the entire revenue was devoted to pay and allowances. Sir, in Travancore then what shall we say if fifty per cent. of our entire revenue is to be spent for that.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I correct the member? The percentage is about 39.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Then I stand corrected. With regard to that I wish to say something else in another place. If 43 per cent. in Egypt is considered forbidding then certainly 39 per cent. in Travancore is as high as it ought not to be and that is the reason why expenditure year after year mounts at this abnormal rate of speed. Sir, in a State where irresponsible Government obtains, the Executive have always a fatal tendency to pamper to themselves. What is wrong in Travancore to-day is that the administration of the country, the Government of the country, does not enter into close and cordial touch with the people. No Government which maintains an attitude of aloofness is entitled to, or does it receive, that moral support which in the last analysis is the final seat and sheet anchor of all legitimate authority.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have only three minutes more.

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MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Yes, Sir. My trouble with the Government of Travancore, is that it has forfeited this moral support of the people. Now that the Executive has this tendency, there is a polarity of interests between the Government and the governed, and this polarity finds itself expressed in over-taxation. Mr. President, I would like to know the exact time at my disposal ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Strictly speaking your time is up. If you think you can wind up your speech in a minute or two I will allow you that.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Then I will wind up. There is the theory of over-taxation. But I confess that we have not got sufficient data to make a very authoritative statement on the subject. For this reason in order to get at the taxable capacity of the people it is absolutely essential that we get the *per capita* income also. Here in Travancore we are at a loss to know what exactly our *per capita* income is and unless we get some sort of proportion between these, one cannot definitely say that one is over-taxed. The question of *per capita* income is a very interesting question to a student of public finance and it is necessary that at some expense of time, money and trouble, we gather the necessary statistics on this point. Government are always leaping in the dark, just imagining that the people can afford to pay, any amount that Government need from time to time.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up, Mr. Thomas.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Now I appeal for some extension of time.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I told you that I would give you only two minutes extra. Again I will give you another two minutes. You must close within that time.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : I am under the delusion that I am interesting the House. That is the reason that induces me to apply for an extension of time Now I want five minutes more.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Everybody is anxious to interest the House. If I tell you that your time is up, or has expired, it does not mean that you are not interesting. Alright, go on. You were at the *per capita* income.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : It is very important and I must be allowed to develop it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Then take some other opportunity.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Karthikapalli*) : Sir, this is the tenth Budget that has been presented by the Financial Secretary for the consideration and voting by the representatives of the people. Sir, the representatives of the people have, during these nine years, given so many constructive suggestions for the framing of the Budget, and have tried to influence Government to draft the Budget in such a way as to suit the needs of the people. I believe we have already spent about two and a half lakhs of rupees on this precious institution. A short retrospect, of the work done by this Council, to know

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

whether, as it stands today, it enjoys greater privileges, asserts greater rights and deserves greater regard at the hands of the Government would not now be out of place as these matters should engage the attention of this House before it votes upon the Budget.

Sir, in the message of the founder of this institution, we thought, there was an implication that this Council was the first instalment of a series of reforms by which the representatives of the people would be associated more and more with the administration of the country. In spite of that statement in the message, all that has taken place since, is the constitution of a Standing Finance Committee. And now, what is the lot of that poor committee? Sir, in the early stages of its existence, Government used to respect at least the unanimous opinion of the non-official members in the Finance Committee; and proposals which were unanimously opposed by the non-official members of the Committee were not used to be brought before the Council. During recent years, even this right has been denied to the Finance Committee; and this year we find that the Finance Committee has not been able to make even a single proposal of theirs heard by Government. Sir, *almost* all—I would say *all*—the proposals unanimously opposed by the non official members on the Finance Committee this year have been brought before this Council. This is all that we have been getting since the inauguration of this Council. Even the little that was given to us is now being taken away. That is where we stand. In Cochin the Council was started three years after this Council was started here; and, if I remember right, a member of the Cochin Government attended this Council before their Council was started. But now, do we occupy a better position than they? I dare say, that, at this moment, they occupy a much better position than we. They have at least the power of electing their Deputy President. Our Council has been in existence for nearly one and a half times the time for which their Council has been in existence, and still we have not got that right. Sir, I do not mean any reflection on the gentlemen who have been nominated by the Government.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, no; you are simply discussing the principle, involved in the selection of the Deputy President, in abstract.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes, Sir. The right of electing our Deputy President at least, not to speak of the President, should have been conferred on us long ago. Within six years the Cochin Council has got that right; and even after nine years we have not got it. Does it mean that this Council is not progressive or that this Government is not progressive? This Council has obtained certificates, from almost all the Presidents that it has had, that it would stand comparsion with any other institution of its kind and that it has turned out a substantial record of work. So it cannot be said that this Council is not progressive. The only possible inference therefore is that the administration here is not as progressive as it is in Cochin, for instance. So far, about the growth, the development, of the rights of this Council since its inauguration,

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Then, coming to the rights that were conferred upon this Council even at its inception, you yourself opened your first speech, during the general discussion of the Budget in the first meeting of this Council, with a reference to the Interportal Trade Convention. Mr. Mackie, who was then Member for the Planters' Constituency, during his speech in the general discussion of the Budget, dwelt only on the railways. A series of questions on railways, asked by the late Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai, Member for Karunagapalli, were then answered by the Government. A perusal of the proceedings of the first Council would show that, in regard to several cut motions made in this Council, the Government members readily agreed to some reductions being made in the allotments to their respective departments. And in several instances the policies laid down by this House by carrying token motions, were respected by the Government at least to some extent. But what is our position now? Almost all the subjects which I have mentioned are now outside the purview of this Council and we cannot speak a word about any of them here. And so far as the token motions, that we carry here are concerned, the effect is that the Government reduce the proposed cut of one rupee out of the allotment in the Budget.

Sir, that is where we stand. I submit that it is not at all creditable to Government that they should deprive, consciously, or unconsciously, this Council of the powers, rights and privileges which it was enjoying at its inception.

Now, speaking about the Budget which has come up for our immediate consideration, what I have to state is that in the framing of the Budget, the Financial Secretary has to keep in view certain considerations. When he estimates the receipts he must assure himself that the sources of revenue he relies upon are safe and sound and then make provisions for expenditure. Has the Financial Secretary, in his Budget speech, tried to impress this House that the sources of revenue, he depends upon, are quite safe and sound?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He has made an attempt to do it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has he impressed upon us, has he convinced us that the expenditure he has provided for is absolutely necessary and within our means? And, in addition to these matters which immediately concern us, has he made any constructive suggestion with regard to the development of new resources and investments on works which would tend to the economic prosperity of the country?

You observed, Sir, that the Financial Secretary has, in his Budget speech, made an attempt to impress upon us that he has been proceeding on sound basis. All that he has done is to club together figures lying here and there in the Budget and framing sentences with them. His speech on the Budget only amounts to a reading of some parts of the Budget itself. This year's speech on the Budget is only a tenth edition, and a deteriorated edition of the Budget speech, of the Financial Secretary of 1097.

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

The Financial Secertary knows fully well—or ought to know full well—that the conditions in the country are not very happy, that the country is passing through a period of economic crisis and that the people are crying from all parts of the country for some remission of tax and some reduction in school-fees and for grant of large loans on easy terms to the people who are in need of money. In spite of all that, the Financial Secretary expects an enhancement in the receipts on land revenue by ·25 lakh. He expects that ·06 lakh more could be obtained from school-fees. Sir, one can understand the capacity or the power of Government to squeeze the ryot to realise the land revenue due from him. But have the Government any power to compel the people of the country to send their sons and daughters to schools? I am at a loss to see how the Financial Secretary dared to expect an enhancement in the receipts under School Fees. On the other hand, the present tendency of the times—the Financial Secretary may know it himself—is that many students who were attending schools in normal times and who would have continued to do so but for the present depresssion, are not now going to schools as they cannot afford it. It is very well-known that the assessment to income tax for 1107 depends entirely on the income for 1106. In 1106 almost all business concerns have crumbled and the rest are dull, and yet the Financial Secretary expects an enhancement of receipts under Income-Tax. He expects an enhancement of Excise revenue also. Though he says that the export duty on almost all the principal articles of export has been reduced by 20 per cent. he expects an enhancement under customs revenue also.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I correct the member? I have not stated that I expect an enhancement; on the other hand I expect a fall in customs revenue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am sorry; he anticipates a slight fall. Anyway, he has estimated the receipts under customs a bit too high, considering the fact that the export duty has been reduced by 20 per cent.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is the member aware that there is a steady increase in exports?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But it has never been 20 per cent. or 15 per cent. or even 10 per cent.

MR. R NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That seems to be merely the member's opinion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No; it is based on figures. We know how much our income under customs has been growing.

Sir, this is how the receipts' side of the Budget has been drawn up in order to make up income at least to 232·19 lakhs. And what about the capacity of the ryots to pay the several taxes to Government?

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If, as a result of his cry for remission, at least a portion of the land tax is remitted, if the school fees are to be reduced, how could the Financial Secretary expect the income that he has budgeted for?

Sir, the anticipated income for 1107 is about 15 lakhs less than the income for 1105. It would appear from this that the position is more advantageous to the ryot and that the incidence of taxation has gone down. The incidence of taxation in 1105 was Rs. 4·95 per head while in 1107 it is expected to be Rs. 4·64.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Is it exclusive of land revenue?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No, it comprises the whole revenue.

Apparently, therefore, there is a reduction of Re. 0·3 per head in the incidence of taxation. But what about the condition of the ryot in 1105 and his present condition? Taking into account the value of the chief exports from this State, we find that, in 1105, the income from exports was 1,025·8 lakhs of rupees; and, if the prices do not go further down, if the same quantity is exported in 1107 also, it would fetch only about 367.9 lakhs of rupees. So, there is a loss on the exports side of about 657.9 lakhs of rupees. It may be argued that, since the price of paddy and rice and of cloth has gone down, there has been considerable gain on the import side to make up for this loss on the exports side. But, Sir, the gain on the import side comes only to 167.37 lakhs of rupees. There is therefore a net loss of 490.53 lakhs of rupees in the national income of this country. That works out to Rs. 10 per head. When the ryot is deprived of Rs. 10 of his income, and when the income is not above Rs. 30 or 35 per head, there is only a reduction of Re. 0·3 per head under incidence of taxation. Therefore, the apparent slight fall in the incidence of taxation does not help the ryot in his present precarious condition.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know from the member what ought to be, according to him, the revenue of the State?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall answer questions after finishing my speech. Otherwise, my time would be taken up by answering questions.

And then, what about the expenditure side? Is it not the duty of the Financial Secretary to understand the needs of the country and to meet them fairly when he draws up the expenditure side of the budget? Does he know that thousands of coolies have been thrown out of employment from the estates and from the factories at Quilon and Alleppey? Does he know that these poor coolies are pressing hard the people in country parts to give them employment when they themselves are unable to provide work even for their own dependents? Is it not the policy of all governments, whether enlightened or not, whether democratic or autocratic, to provide employment for the people in times of economic distress. For this purpose, they do not hesitate even to borrow money, if necessary. But what have our Government

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

done in the matter? The expenditure under new communications in the year 1105 was 16.8 lakhs whereas in the year 1107 the expenditure under that head is to be only 6·1 lakhs, so that there is to be a reduction of about 10 lakhs under that head. This is how the Financial Secretary has chosen to provide work for the unemployed.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it your suggestion that more money should be provided for in the P. W. D. Budget?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My point is that the expenditure has not been so adjusted as to meet the situation in the country.

Another pathetic spectacle is that, when there is famine raging in the country and when epidemics are likely to break out, the Financial Secretary very wisely cuts Rs. 40,000 under Medicine. It would have been quite all right if he could issue an injunction that epidemics should not break out in 1107. Sir, this Council has been repeatedly pressing, year after year, for the abolition of the Medical Board. We have carried three years ago a cut motion for that purpose. Why not the Financial Secretary think of reducing expenditure under that item? Why should he reduce the provision for medicines to be supplied to the poor people?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Asan. What is it you want, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What, according to Mr. Asan, should be the revenue of the State?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not understand the question.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The member has stated that the revenue has been over-estimated. May I know what, according to him, should be the revenue of the State so that the incidence of taxation may be fair in relation to the present economic condition of the country?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): That is a matter which the Financial Secretary must know better than I. All that I can say is that, from the data he has furnished, it is clear that he has over-estimated the revenue.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: By?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): A huge sum (*Laughter*); I need not commit myself.

DUPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Asan.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The speeches that we have been listening to here till now, disclosed very clearly the fact that things are not what they ought to be so far as the Government are concerned. I refer particularly to the statement made by Mr. O. M. Thomas that the Government do not wish to have the co-operation of the people

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That, I think, is the purport of what he said. That is a fact that has been very clearly emphasised in this House many a time on former occasions when the Budget was discussed. It is a fact that has to be emphasised again and again.

Now, what is it that is at the bottom of this view expressed by the non-official members of this House? Government do not show any real anxiety or really exert themselves to see that the interests of the State are advanced. We find that the Budget presented to this House year after year is the result of a mere arithmetical attempt to balance the expenditure column with the receipts column. Apart from such arithmetic, there is absolutely nothing discernible by way of an endeavour to advance the interests of the State. The Financial Secretary takes the revised figures of the current year as the basis for his proposals for the Budget of the coming year. That is exactly what we find in the case of the Budget now put into our hands. The few reductions, in expenditure, that have been made, are the results of his attempt to adjust the expenditure to the receipts and to see that a balanced Budget is presented to this House.

To begin with, Sir, I wish to say a few words in regard to the way in which the Financial Secretary has tried to reduce expenditure, the retrenchment that he has attempted for the next year. He says that under the travelling allowance of officers he has reduced ·52 lakhs. The two fall under the same category, more or less, and so I shall consider them together.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Which page of the Financial Secretary's speech are you refering to?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Page 15.

Now Sir, what does this reduction mean? My friend Mr. Asan remarked that apart from some words connecting some of the figures in the Budget there was nothing else in the speech of the Financial Secretary. That is exactly what I also think of the speech. What is the implication of this reduction of about half a lakh of rupees under T. A? It is not at all clear from the speech of the Financial Secretary. Does he mean to say that the officers would continue to do as much inspection work and controlling work as they used to do in the previous years with this reduced sum that has been provided in the Budget for 1107? Or, does he mean that the officers would do only a correspondingly smaller amount of inspection work?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think the latter seems to be the implication.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I answer the question, Sir?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Could it not mean that the officers were unnecessarily travelling during the past years?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The idea is that the officers must manage with the reduced allotment ; for instance, instead of going to a particular place more than once they must finish their inspection work by going round just once.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Does it mean that there would be less Government—efficient or inefficient—next year than in this year ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : No, Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : It is not at all clear what exactly the Financial Secretary means by the reduction of about Rs. 50,000 in the allotment under T. A. The House would have welcomed the statement if it had been clear that the rates of T. A. of the officers would be reduced.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I may inform the member that that matter is under the consideration of Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : If that is really under consideration, why not he tell us so in plain language ? Why not the Government take us into their confidence ? I do not know how that *consideration* is going to end. At any rate, so far as the statement now under consideration is concerned, I take it that it means that less of travelling and inspection will be done in 1107 than in the past years. Sir, is that the position that the Government should take ? I ask what is the difficulty, in reducing the rates of T. A ? We all know that even if we engage a motor car for hire, ordinarily, we get it for eight annas and even for six annas for a mile's journey to and fro. If the Government are seriously inclined to advance the interests of the State, why not they reduce the rate of T. A. from Rupee one to ten annas per mile, to and fro or atleast to twelve annas ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The idea of Government, perhaps, is that, with increasing facilities of communication, the officers would be able to do more of travelling and inspection at less cost and more quickly.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, it is you that suggest this. The Financial Secretary would not go even to that extent. He plainly says that, where the officers were going twice this year they would go only once next year.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*) : Have facilities of communication increased this year than what they were a year ago ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have to put the question to Mr. Thanu Pillai if you want.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : As I was submitting, Sir, the question of reducing T. A., the Government could have very well considered. On the other hand, as Mr. Asan has pointed out, a substantial reduction has been made in the allotment for medicines, to the extent of about half a lakh of rupees and I would also bring to the notice of the House that people who could buy medicine in normal times cannot afford to buy them now because they have no money.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Does the member know that the prices of medicines have gone down?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not know.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it stated that because the prices of medicines have gone down, that this reduction is made?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is not that. In some way the expenditure should be cut down and the less resistible lines are adopted. Then other contingencies such as for Forest Conservancy and Works have been cut down. I do not know what these figures are. At any rate I find that the allotment for the Forest Contingencies and works do not suffer any diminution at all.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is only by a small amount.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): No, it does not suffer anything. It is much more than for last year.

Then we come to another very objectionable reduction that has been effected in the Budget under P. W. and Maramat Departments. A cut of nearly 8·86 lakhs have been effected in this case. Sir, how is this to be justified especially at this time when Government ought to be anxious to provide employment to our labourers. We also find from the Budget that this 8·86 lakhs of rupees is to be reduced mainly on account of roads, bridges and so forth. There is provision made for works by way of buildings which could very well wait. But we find that buildings are provided for and at the same time roads and bridges which are very necessary and which have received administrative sanction and for which provision was made in the Budgets of previous years many a time have been omited. Now all this is done merely to balance the Budget. The question may be raised as to how money could be found for all these items of expenditure when our revenue has fallen. Sir, is it not a Government of our own composed of men and women of our State that we have? Is it too much to expect that the Government come forward with a proposal that the salaries of high paid officers be reduced. Of course the Treasury Benches would view that proposal with alarm. I put it in all seriousness, if the Government really wanted to help the people who are suffering on account of the fall in prices of commodities, is it too much to expect that the Government would have come forward willingly and voluntarily with a proposal to reduce the salaries of their high paid officers. That is the suggestion that I have to make for the consideration of the Government. When the hard-working ryots, the industrious trader, the lawyer, the doctor and persons who follow other occupations have to be content with a much smaller income than they used to make, is it impossible for the Government to reduce the salaries of their high paid officers? Then again, Sir, we really can make reductions in the rates of travelling

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

allowances of officers Sir, our Government have constituted a committee for going into the question of minor irrigation. It was as a result of an adjournment motion in this House. Now that committee is expected to submit its report soon. I ask where is the provision in the Budget to do works in persuance of the proposals that might be made by that committee. The Financial Secretary says he has provided 2 lakhs for irrigation. Is it enough? It is the amount usually provided in the Budget year after year.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I correct the member. It is not done year after year. It is only last year that we provided 2 lakhs, before that it was lower.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It may be one and a half, or one lakh. Now I ask the Financial Secretary whether these 2 lakhs will be enough to do the works that will be recommended by the committee. Is that to be put off. Is it not very important and urgent, Where is the provision for that? I mention this fact merely to show that money is required for other very essential purposes and retrenchment will have to be effected in some direction.

Sir, another matter was referred to here that our administration is really top-heavy. That again is a matter which the Government ought really to go into. We should effect retrenchment and a committee should be appointed to go into the whole question of revenue and expenditure. It is not by making officers not to do their work that we should effect retrenchment. Inspection can be made much more easily now than a dozen years ago since facilities for travelling have considerably increased. So the number of officers that was found to be necessary ten years ago is not required now. That is a matter which ought to engage the attention of Government. Reference was made to the number of Excise Division Officers, the number of Police A. S. P's and so on. Are all these appointments necessary? Now we have got a large number of Excise Divisions. Why not reduce them. So also in regard to A. S. P's. Why not do away with them or reduce their number? When we were asking for the abolition of this post, what we find is that one more D. S. P. is to be created.

MR. L. A BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): But he is not to be in charge of any district.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I see that. I was referring to that by way of illustration. That does not mean that one D. S. P. is required for other work.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In conclusion I fail to see any real attempt made by Government towards retrenchment. The Development Departments were referred to here. I do not say that these departments are absolutely useless. But we do not get the return for the money spent on account of these departments. That is a fact

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that no body can dispute. As was pointed out we have got a number of experts in the Departments of Agriculture and Industries. The result of their work is not at all commensurate with the money spent on them. I say this is because Government do not really take that interest in the advancement of the people which they ought to take. That point was made clear by Mr. Thomas. He said that it is because Government are not responsible to the people. But I would ask why not Government be at least responsive to the wishes of the people though not responsible to them. Reference was also made to the appointments of committees. Government appoint committees and their reports are very often shelved. And what is the use of this?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I must ask you to stop.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : If I go on in this strain? (*laughter.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may go on in any strain you like. I am absolutely indifferent. But your time is up.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Government do not seem to be anxious to promote the interest of the people. It is because Government are not responsive to the wishes of the people that we hear all these complaints here.

(For a few minutes no one stood up to speak.)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : May I take it that no more of the non-officials want to speak?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI : (*Karunagapalli*) : Every one is anxious to speak. We are only waiting for others to speak.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : We would like to hear some body from the Official Benches.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : They will reply after you have spoken. You should expect me to wait only for a reasonable time, say two minutes more, after which I shall take it that you are not anxious to speak.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Sir, before I make any observations on the Budget proper, may I point out certain incorrect, inaccurate language used by the Financial Secretary in his Budget speech. I do not know whether he did so with some sinster motive or not. I shall bring to the notice of the House, one of those. He talks of liquor shop *picketing*. If I had not known the Financial Secretary and if I had not that high opinion of his intellect, as I undoubtedly have, I would have attributed the use of this incorrect language to ignorance. But knowing him as I do, I attribute it to some sinster motive to condemn the prohibition movement by putting it as liquor shop *picketing*. Can he point out one instance of picketing even when this movement was at its height. Of course I am aware of a case in Quilon where certain gentlemen were charged for advocating picketing and they were honourably acquitted. But there is not even a single instance in the whole State of actual picketing conducted for the removal of this growing evil. Not that I am afraid of the word picketing.

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

It is only a legitimate activity, and it has been advocated by all. But the Financial Secretary ought to have been more careful in the choice of words and expressions. If some body outside the State, say some European sees it, he will be under the impression that people here are doing picketing work and he may have naturally a mistaken notion against the people here. He will understand it merely as some activity connected with the congress.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may put it as 'propaganda work' and not 'picketing'.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I would put it as prohibition movement. Nothing more or less.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Has any demonstration been made before the liquor shops to prevent the people from getting into the shops?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Picketing has got a technical meaning. In that sense no picketing took place. Therefore it cannot be called a picketing movement. It must be called a prohibition movement.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Will the member define the word 'picketing'?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Am I called upon to answer that question, Sir?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You can answer him or decline. The privilege is yours.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): If it is merely for the information of the Police Commissioner, I shall answer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You please address me.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Liquor-picketing means preventing people by peaceful persuation in front of toddy shops as people go to drink toddy. That is the meaning of picketing. Such a movement did not exist anywhere in Travancore.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Am I to take it that no picketing took place in Travancore?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): So far as I am aware of only one such instance took place.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): I am afraid that the member is sadly mistaken.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Can he point out one instance where he has prosecuted anybody for picketing. Has he brought to the notice of the Government or the House of any such instance. If there are only two, three or four instances you cannot call the whole movement a picketing movement. It would only be propaganda work. I raised the objection because an attempt was made to over-state the case.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is only a compliment.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): We do not want such empty compliments. We know our position. We have not advanced so much. We do not want compliments for things which we have not done.

With regard to the Budget, many people were complaining about the balancing of the Budget by the Financial Secretary. But it is not to the balancing of the Budget that I object. I attach much importance to one or two other things. One is the mentality that actuated the Financial Secretary to present this Budget. If honestly done, he would have presented a deficit Budget. But he read the psychology of the House wrongly. He thought if he presented a balance Budget there would be some sort of consolation to the House. We are not experts in finance and in questions of economics. But we can understand things and the Financial Secretary should give us some credit for understanding things as they are. We shall not be bamboozled by a mere make-believe balance Budget. A deficit Budget is not always a bad Budget. We can also understand the difficulty of the Government and the general economic condition. This House understanding the difficulty of the Government would have co-operated, would have sympathised with them and would have done all things that are possible to do. But instead of that, by the jugglery of figures, the Budget is presented. It is an insult to the members of this House from a self respect point of view.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): MayI say that the surplus is only very nominal?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, I can understand it. You have no right to put it as even nominal surplus. You should have gone in for a heavy dificit this year. You should have gone in with the development schemes. The P. W. Department should have been provided with larger sums of money as a measure of economic relief and as a measure of nation building activity.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What ought to have been the amount allotted for P. W. D.?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): 16 lakhs would not have been more.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is the member aware that we have provided 51 lakhs including the capital works?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am not afraid to ask more at this time of crisis. If you have no money you should raise loans. Before the war people were afraid of raising loans. That was a conservative attitude about the theory of public debts. But the war taught a lesson. After the war everywhere they are going in for public borrowing. Public barrowing is not a thing to be afraid of, provided the funds are used for nation-building purposes and also for the healthy

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

development of the people's finance. Of course, there is danger in borrowing, if the Government is not responsive. I am alive to that fact. If you give a *carte blanche* for borrowing then, Government will be very extravagent and much money will be wasted. Everything depends upon the conscientiousness with which Government act. If the Government are not prepared to act for the benefit of the people and *only* for the benefit of the people then no amount of caution can save us.

Then with regard to the Budget and to the finance in general, if we scrutinise it we can find one fact and that is a fact that has to be realised by the non-official members as well. That is the most interesting thing about our finances. We have got an almost in-elastic income and a growing expenditure. That is another ominous thing. We can possibly increase the revenue. The more democratic an administration the greater is the expenditure. All that I concede. But how to raise the income is the problem that ought to be solved not only by the officials but by the non-officials as well. Ultimately you will find that every financial problem, could be solved only by the solution of a psycological problem underlying it. It is a question of psychology. The psychology of the people ought to be changed. How can you compel the people to raise new sources of revenue and co-operate with you unless they have confidence in you. For the growing democracy funds are needed. The only means of bringing them into your confidence is by saying that not a single pie is wasted and that you have reduced the expenditure to the margin of efficiency. Has that been done? Many of my friends,asked for a retrenchment committee. Even in British India where it is an alien Government they have constituted retrenchment committees. Even now it is not too late. But it is better late than never. Go into the question of expenditure, share with the country your confidence and tell them that you are not spending even a single pie that is not absolutely necessary. Unless you restore that confidence in the people, there is absolutely no progress. All progress will be at a stand-still. You will find it difficult to carry on the administration. Land Revenue per head in Travancore, Government say, is very small. But that is a great fallacy. We have got a lot of bodies who are not taxed at all. I mean the Jenmies and the Edavagais. They should be taxed. Supertax ought to be levied. Now the whole tax falls upon a few. If we take one third of the population and calculate the tax per head you will find that it is much more than in any other country *per capita* taxation. Another thing is that the whole basis of taxation is not sound. I would suggest that people who collect large tracts of land and leave them uncultivated should be taxed and heavily taxed if they are not brought under cultivation within a certain time. They should be taxed so heavily that they should either cultivate the land or give it up. The national wealth is to be increased. If we sit together and talk over these matters we can find a hundred remedies for these things. The first and foremost thing wanted is the revolutionary change in the mentality of the officials. You must think it

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worth while to give some responsibility to us. Unless this is done our criticisms will run off at a tangent. Some times it may be radical criticisms. I boast myself as a moderate. I am not ashamed to say that we *are* in an irresponsible position, and *will be* so long as we have an irremovable Executive, as the learned Deputy President has once put it and as long as you do things as you like we have no responsibility. The whole question depends upon this. Unless there is an obligation to take up responsibilities you cannot have the sort of critisism and the sort of suggestion and the sort of thought that ought to be bestowed to this question as you would otherwise wish to have. It is not the fault of anybody.

As regards the framing of the Budget, I was not prepared to intervene at such an early stage and I was not able to arrange my ideas. As regards the Departments of Industries and Agriculture, my friends have dealt upon them at length. I have read something of the Political Literature, of administration, of economics and I have not found in any of these books stated that "thou shalt have an Industries Department if there is a Government". "Thou shalt have an Agricultural Department." (*Laughter*). If you are going to run an Industrial Department you will have to contribute very heavily towards it.

With this tinkering you can't run the department. One of the suggestions made by the Indian Industrial Commission is that mere so-called experts are useless. You must have experienced experts, and you must be able to provide money for carrying on their schemes. If you can't afford that, stop the department. The work that is now being done by the Industrial Department can be done by a public lecture committee. Nothing more than that is being done. If they want to experiment on anything let them put themselves in touch with the Technological Department of the Government of India and then they can get the information easily. We have got an Agricultural and an Industrial Department. These Departments only serve to boast like that. So, if the Government feel confident, let them run these departments properly. Otherwise, it is an insult to the Heads of these Departments if they don't give them sufficient funds. I do not mean any disrespect when I say that these two departments should be abolished. Mr. I. C. Chacko, whose urbanity of manners and affability nobody can question, should not misunderstand me. But the tinkering work that is being done now is useless. Take off your hands or plough with all your might. That is the policy I would advocate with regard to these two departments.

With regard to popular rights, my friend Mr. Damodaran Asan has sufficiently dealt with it. In Travancore, perhaps it is due to the development of political ideas and thoughts of freedom that we are having political cases, and political convictions have become, though not the order of the day, have not become rare. I want to draw the special attention of the House to the case of two respectable gentlemen who have been given bad treatment in the jail. They are given the treatment of third class prisoners. The president or any other member will see—

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): So far as I know it is a matter *sub judice*.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): The treatment that they want is not a judicial matter. I do not think it is *sub judice*.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have put in a petition to the Court.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): That is not a judicial matter at all. It is only an executive function of the judge. I do not think that is *sub judice* and that it cannot be discussed.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have put in a petition under the Jail Rules; it has to be decided by the Court.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The Chief Secretary is under the mistaken impression that a matter—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have no right of speech now Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am rising to a point of order. The impression that the matter that has to be decided by the Court is a matter *sub judice* is erroneous. Every matter that comes to a Court has to be decided by a Court of Law. That cannot be called *sub judice*.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I follow you. What the Chief Secretary said was that it is a matter which rests within the discretion of the District Judge and that it does not rest with the Government in the initial stages to say in which particular class a convict shall be included. In that sense you say that it is *sub judice*, Mr. George?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. Whether legally it is *sub judice*, I cannot say.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not *sub judice*. The discussion is not barred.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have gone to the place where these gentlemen are imprisoned and I find that they are treated as mere simple imprisonment prisoners. Government may not agree with the opinions they have expreseed, but the Government cannot deny that they were accustomed to a higher standard of life. And knowing that Government should not be vindictive, they should not annihilate them mentally and physically like this. They ought to do as civilised Governments do; they ought to do at least as Governments in British India do; their vested interests are not more than that of the Government in British India. Regarding that I have only to point out so much.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have given you 25 minutes because there was some interruption.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I want two minutes more.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT; Yes,

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): With regard to the fostering of citizen rights Government have not spent a pie. They cannot plead economic depression. I am not suggesting any improvement that affects the Financial Secretary at present. I think we ought to get a better attitude between the people and the Government. For that the Government have not to spend a single pie. For example, if Government will give an assurance of a change of mentality and a better attitude towards the freedom of the people you can expect better co-operation from the people. Without the co-operation of the people Government cannot do anything. At least at this time, after a decade of the existence of this democratic institution, it is time to think of conferring more powers and responsiblities on this House, greater powers of association and freedom of speech and fundamental rights for which people have got a right. Government have to take into consideration that we have got a right, a birth right, to know what the representatives, the Government's representatives, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and that minor statesman Mr. Krishna Murthi did with regard to our State in the Round Table Conference and what they propose to do in the next Conference. Who are our representatives and what are they going to do? I have got a lot of things to say. But my time is up. So I finish.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, we have again the good fortune to meet in this, the Fourth Reformed Council. But we are meeting, as has already been said by my predecessors, in this House under the shadow of an economic crisis. Never before, Sir, has our country been faced, at least not to our knowledge, with such an astounding trade depression. It is under such distressing circumstances that the Budget for the year 1107 has been cast. So, a courageous handling of the resources, a wise and discriminate cut where cut is necessary and a sympathetic relaxation of the hand where necessary are what the situation requires. I must confess that a glance at the Financial Secretary's statement has convinced me that the Budget for 1107 is only an unimaginative and shrunken copy of that for the year 1106. Sir, that the main sources of our revenue are rather inelastic needs no explanation. Taxation on land in our country has reached the furthest limit. The Excise revenue, that much tainted revenue, as it is properly called, has gone down and is bound to go down, thanks to the successful picketting of our selfless workers. The other revenues also, such as revenue from Stamps and Registration, are bound to go down, judging from the circumstances of the country. Therefore we have necessarily to tap fresh sources of revenue, if possible, without at the same time enhancing the burden of the people who are already groaning under the present taxation.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What are the possible sources of revenue?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*). I am coming to that.

In the matter of indirect taxation, the authority of our Government is limited by considerations of imperial policy. For example, from 1864 to 1921 something like 3 crores of rupees have been lost to our country. In

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1864 the Interportal Convention was come to. Although the volume of trade has increased beyond the wildest expectations of the Statesmen who worked up that scheme, nothing has yet been done to realise our legitimate dues on that account. So, this is one source of revenue from which at this difficult juncture we could expect to get something to meet the financial stringency of the day. It is regrettable that avenues like this have closed themselves to the vision of the Finance Department. I have already stated that the times require a sound policy of retrenchment. The Financial Secretary's statement contains on page 15 a list of the cuts proposed. I would say that makes pathetic reading. It is in the P. W. D. that the axe of the Financial Secretary has fallen most heavily. The P. W. D. is one of the few departments Sir, that really benefits the people, and as observed by my friend Mr. Damodaran Asan, public works financed by Government are at such stringent times as at present the only salvation for suffering labour. What I submit is that the axe of the Financial Secretary has fallen most heavily and most unjustifiably upon this particular item.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is it the member's contention that we should provide for more than 51 lakhs under P. W. D.?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That includes capital works also.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Capital works are also public works.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, not ordinary public works. Sir, place by the side of this the demand made by the Police Commissioner for such items as armed reserve and auxiliary force. Then again, referring to page 15 of the statement of the Financial Secretary, there is a cut proposed of about 1·91 lakhs from Travelling Allowance. It would have been realy wise to cut the salaries of the officers who form the limb of the Government. If so, Government would have been following a wise and statesmanlike policy conducive to the welfare of the public at large. I would only submit that our Governnment could have easily taken a lesson out of what is being done by other advancing Governments. Even in Simla, a retrenchment committee is sitting. Bombay, Madras, U. P. and several other Provinces are considering proposols of retrenchment.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Are they not cutting public works allotments?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Not to that extent that we are doing here. But there at least there is this consolation that the salaries of the officers and their establishments are proposed to be proportionately cut to compensate for that. Our Government who have never been behind hand in the matter of copying other Governments when the question arises of curtailing the liberty of the citizens should

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certainly have done better if they had imitated other Governments in this matter as usual Sir, times without number, the representatives of the people have protested against the importation of outsiders as officers in the State. I would submit that this is a double sin, because the claims of those who are in service and those who could do the work with equal efficiency at lesser cost are overlooked. To pick out one or two instances, I may refer to the Heads of the Revenue Department, the Public Works Department, the Education Department and the Police Commissioner. Also the Government are spending a huge amount by way of various sorts of allowances such as personal allowance, local allowance, duty allowance and the like. If the pruning knife of the Financial Secretary had come down upon these items, that would have been a real benefit to the people.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Are not the European officers serving under agreements?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): But who asked the Government to bring down such men under agreement? Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai referred to the question of amputating certain limbs of Government such as the Industries Department. I agree with him. That department is manned by a Director and a large number of experts who are drawing fat salaries. This department, Sir, is one which has consistently proved itself incapable of spending the money allotted for it from year to year. Government also must have realised this and, probably on account of this, Government, I believe, have this year cut down the allotment for that department considerably. I think it is about a lakh and forty thousand rupees. I have made my own calculations and I find that for payment of the staff and establishment we want a lakh and odd rupees, so that practically it comes to this. We have to maintain this department because we have to pay for its staff. I would also recommend to Government that an experiment might be tried by abolishing this department. The public shall not be the worse off for it.

A word about the Medical Department. My friend Mr. Asan said how the Government have stinted expenditure even on such very essential items as purchase of medicines. It is quite true. While the Government estimated for about 2·40 lakhs of rupees last year for this item, this year they have reduced it by 40,000 rupees. We have also to remember, Sir, that this cut has been effected at a time when there is a complaint that there is a dearth of medicine in mofussil hospitals. I would in this connection refer also to another item, a very necessary item, wherein also the Government have mercilessly cut down expenditure. I refer to dieting charges. We know how patients are being fed in the hospitals. They are given insufficient and unwholesome food. I had occasion to visit the General Hospital on many an occasion and also to talk with the poor patients there over this matter. They are practically starving, Sir. And it is in this most vital item that the Government have proposed to reduce expenditure by about five or six thousand rupees.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I remind the member that in 1105 the expenditure was only Rs. 84,000 and the current year's provision is Rs. 82,000?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In 1106 was it not 87,000 rupees?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): But we do not know what the actual expenditure would be.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I have also to refer to one other matter of vital interest. The Administration Report of the Medical Department has been consistently showing that the tuberculosis patients are on the increase in our State; and in the address of the Dewan before the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, he assured us that arrangements are being made for opening a sanatorium in South Travancore. But I see no provision in the Budget for 1107 in spite of this assurance of the Dewan.

Sir, much as I would wish to confine my remarks to general observations on the Budget, I think that I must make strong exception to some of the demands for the Police Department. Last year, Mr. Bishop came forward with a plea for lathies and this year he advocates an increase in the Armed Reserve.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): I am afraid the member has quite misunderstood the Financial Secretary's speech. I am not advocating an increase in the Armed Reserve. I am actually asking for a reduction.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There is an increase.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Not under the Armed Reserve.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Both are relative terms—Auxiliary Force and armed reserve. Sir, I wonder how the Financial Secretary was in a position particularly in view of the present financial stringency to make provision for the above items for the Police which I characterise as unwanted and unwarranted. let me assure Mr. Bishop that we are far from the gangland of Chicago— even the bogie of Pudukottah is far away from us. I hope that the members on this side of the House, when this demand comes to vote, will throw it out with one voice.

Sir, we are living in very stirring times and vast and sweeping changes are being wrought around us to be returned. The Round Table Conference is going under brighter auspices. But it is regrettable to notice that separate representation is denied to an important State like Travancore. Times without number, our people have been requesting the Government to extend and enlarge the powers of the Legislative Council. All high officers are safely kept out of the purview of this House. Very important departments like the Railway and Devaswoms are fully kept outside the criticism of this House. We are even denied an elected President. I think we can congratulate our small sister State of Cochin in that they have at least secured an elected Deputy President.

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But we shall not be satisfied with that. Sir, Governments cannot successfully carry on the administration and carry along with them the confidence of the people also unless the Executive is made responsible to the legislature. That is a broad question of high policy which I need not expatiate upon now. However, I believe that statesmen in Travancore will not be lacking in that light, leading and courage to envisage in the near future responsible Government for Travancore.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Sir, can the non-official members get the service of peons inside the Council Hall ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is it for facilitating your work as members of the House ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That will be available.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-59 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-45 P. M.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Sir, it is very much regretted that the Head of the Administration who is also the ex-officio President of this Council is unable to attend to-day and preside over the deliberations of this august assembly. We had high hopes and expectations of discussing the Budget and bringing to his notice all the defects that are patent in it. I should not be understood as belittling the importance of the Deputy President.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There is no nervousness so far as I am concerned. I may say for your information that the complete report of the Proceedings will be submitted to the President in due course. We cannot also forget the fact that Presidents may be prevented occasionally from being present on account of some inconvenience.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I thank the President for this information.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to know from the member whether he is not of the opinion—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He is not in order when he referred to the absence of the President. I did not want to proceed so far as that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to put a question to the member. I would like to know whether he is not of the opinion that a permanent non-official President would be preferable to the Dewan-President?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I did not mean so much All that I said was, probably it would have been better had the Dewan President been able to preside over the Council to-day, but as the Deputy President says the Dewan has been unable owing to illness.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I never said that. I said that it was in convenient for the Dewan to attend the Council.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I accept your statement, Sir.

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Proceeding to the speech of the Financial Secretary, I have to thank Government for the frank avowal it has made in regard to the present economic depression prevailing throughout the Country. At the same time I am unable with equal fervour to thank the Financial Secretary who has drawn up a Budget which does not attempt to make a judicious distribution of the public revenues of the State and thereby meet the situation with sufficient efficiency. It may be either due to lack of knowledge or due to lack of information about the seriousness of the present situation or again, it may be due to a callousness of heart which I must remark is unparalleled in the history of Travancore. I heard the Financial Secretary remark to some of those sitting beside him that we the non-official members of this House were speaking as if he was responsible for all that is contained in the Budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You ought not to have noticed it. It was not meant for public consumption.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I withdraw that statement. We throw the entire blame upon the Financial Secretary for the preparation of the Budget and on that assumption I suppose I am privileged to speak.

The present depression is one which mainly affects the agricultural population of the land. It is an accepted principle that the peasant is the economic unit of Travancore. It is on his produce that the whole State depends for its sustenance. It is he who owns the land, it is he who produces crops, it is he who pays land tax and it is out of his produce and out of the income derived from that produce that you are realising the tax that go to swell the public revenues of the State. Therefore, Sir, every responsible Government or at least every Government feeling at least a part of the responsibility which is expected of them ought to frame a Budget which would to some extent at least allay the anxieties and the fears of the peasant population of the country.

I said that this might be due to an insufficient knowledge or to a callousness of those responsible for the production of the Budget. I now find from a paper that has been placed in my hands this morning that the Land Revenue Commissioner is mainly responsible for the omission on the part of the Government to ignore completely the existence of the ryots in this land. It is stated in the Government Proceedings which was published as an answer to an interpellation this morning that the Land Revenue Commissioner stated that the ryot of this country is well able to pay the first charge *namely*, the tax due on the lands and I believe the orders of Government are mainly due to this statement I do not for a moment contend that the ryot is unable to pay the first charge on his land. All that I say is he is able to pay that and nothing more. You can take it from me that you are starving him, you are preventing his children from attending schools and you are preventing him from travelling along the public roads of His Highness the Maha Raja of Travancore. I am referring to the annoyance caused to him by the toll-gate keeper. By imposing the high rate of tax, you are preventing him from enjoying the small comforts that he has hitherto been

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enjoying. You will find from the report of the Banking Enquiry Committee that the standard of living of the ordinary peasant is very low. You will also find from that report that the total debt of the agricultural population of this State is 25 crores of rupees—it may probably be the accumulated debts for the past 30 years. And with this debt, he is called upon to pay every duty that the Government impose on him. In the year 1070 when, I believe, the first Permanent Settlement was made he had not to pay as much tax as he now has. Now I find that taxes, duties and cesses are being realised from him. These were not in existence then. In addition to the taxes that he will have to pay while he is alive, there is a duty which pursues him even after death—I refer to the death duty which is levied by the promulgation of the last of the Regulations in the new Regulations and Proclamations, the Probate and Administration Regulation. It says even after death you shall pay. If you are not able to pay your estate, 'shall pay.' The Land Revenue Commissioner or the Head of the Administration who drew up the proceedings ought to have taken all these into consideration when they said that the ryot was well able to pay the tax. I maintain that the Government or those responsible for the drawing up of the Budget completely ignored the peasant population of the country. For allaying the fears or redressing the grievances of the peasants certain remedial measures are enumerated by the Financial Secretary in his speech. One is inclined to smile when he reads of all the emergency measures that have been adopted by the Government. I may refer to some of them here and show to you that they are a mere mockery. In the first place, the Financial Secretary's statement says that Government are convinced that there has been phenomenal fall in the price of every produce. It also concedes that there is great economic depression prevailing in the country. To find out remedies the Financial Secretary in his speech says that the Government are awaiting a report to be submitted by the Economic Depression Committee appointed by the Government. I ask you, Sir, whether the people of their own accord and of their own choice have not appointed four million economic depression committees in the State. Every peasant, I believe, is an Economic Depression Committee in himself. He represents to you and to every body responsible for the administration of the country that he is unable to pay the tax that he is now called upon to pay. He asks for a remission, a rebate or a reduction of the land tax. That is a legitimate prayer. It has to be admitted. The Government say that they are awaiting the final recommendations of the Committee. Probably that report might be received a year hence or it may be that by the time it is received Government may not care to look at it. All that I say now is that Government ought not to wait for the final recommendations of the Committee. Meetings are being held throughout Travancore. Representations are being made by responsible people to the Government and their Officers, to the effect that they are unable to pay the tax due from them on the land. They ask for a rebate on the land tax because that is a concession which will be beneficial to the large majority of the people of this land. That will be

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a concession which would relieve a large number of His Highness's subjects, but when the prayer was made what was the order that was issued by the Government? They said that the Tahsildars have been instructed not to proceed with the coercive processes under the Revenue Recovery Regulation against those who from sheer inability are unable to pay tax. How many of His Highness's subjects would be benefited by this rule, I fail to understand. How are we to convince the Tahsildar that we do not pay land tax because of our inability to pay? When the condition is attached, I submit, it is not a concession at all. Moreover, I am unable to realise the significance of this concession. I am led to believe that the Government and the officers who are responsible for the administration of this country are under the impression that on the 31st of Karkatakam 1106 the price of every produce will suddenly shoot up and that from that day forward, nobody would suffer from the economic depression. It also involves the assumption that till that date prices are being kept under the ordinary level. I would say that every statement contained in the Financial Secretary's speech belies such an assumption.

The next subject that I want to speak about is the establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank for Travancore. It was the subject of a representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly three or four years ago, it was discussed in the Legislative Council and finally we have the recommendation of the Banking Enquiry Committee. A reading of the Banking Enquiry Committee's report would convince every one that that is the only institution which would give redress to the peasant population. Although by this time land banks have been established in several provinces in British India and are appreciated by the people there, the Financial Secretary of the Travancore Government says that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has definite instructions to propose certain suggestions on the subject. Are we going to be relieved of the present depression by the receipt of definite proposals from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies? It is all intended to mislead the public. It might take one year for the receipt of the report, probably half a dozen years for consideration by the Government and another 25 years for the formation of the Bank. By that time the people of the land may not require any assistance from the Government at all. They might have passed that stage when a Land Mortgage Bank would be of any help to them. They might have been swallowed up in debts and it may be beyond the power of the Government to redeem them.

Another point which amuses me is the statement relating to the reduction of tax on rubber lands. I ask, Sir, how many acres are there owned by the Travancore peasants and how many will be benefited by this concession. Is the price of produce such as paddy, cocoanut and tappioca on a higher level than the price of rubber?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I suppose you get something for rice and paddy?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It is because we invest something on it.

I understand that there is a complaint from the Kuttanad and Nanjanad cultivators that they are not able to get out of their land anything in proportion to their investment and that it is not advantageous to continue paddy cultivation in Travancore. The present price of paddy and cocoanut may be higher. I believe the number of people whom it affects is also greater.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you take it from me that rubber estates are now being closed? They do not pay anything.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): They need not and I am not very much concerned with them. There are one and a half millions of acres of dry and wet lands in this country. Tax on wet lands ranges from 2 to 28 rupees, and on dry lands from one to 50 rupees. You will find that from the report of the Banking Enquiry Committee. My figures may astonish some of you, but I believe I am correct except probably in the matter of assessment on cocoanut gardens. I find it is assessed on the basis of dry land in the first instance and then again on the basis of the quality of the cocoanut trees grown on it. And, at the rate of 100 cocoanut trees per acre, the tax on dry lands is, I believe, over Rs. 20 an acre in some cases.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I inform the member the highest rate for land is only 15 fanams?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not claim mathematical accuracy. It is left to the Financial Secretary to ascertain these figures. All I wish to say at the moment is that tax on dry lands is over Rs. 2. If rubber estate owners who pay a tax of Rs. 2 per acre are entitled to this privilege I cannot understand why the agriculturists also are not granted this privilege in proportion to the fall in the price of the produce of the land. My suggestion therefore is that if Government want to give some redress to the ordinary tax payer, then some remission of land revenue has to be made.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, you must wind up.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Another point on which I want to speak is that the Financial Secretary has given a balanced budget. I am afraid, he is under the impression that the balanced budget is the best budget that could be thought of. Any elementary book on Finance might tell us that it is not always true. At a time when economic depression is ravaging the country, we all expected that the Financial Secretary would come forward with a deficit budget. That is one of the fundamental principles that has been overlooked. He has been able to show a balance of Rs. 50,000 and even that balance is misappropriated for investment on capital expenditure. Investments on capital expenditure should not be made from the current revenues

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of the State. It should be made from the reserves if available or from borrowed funds because it is an instrument wherewith the tax-payer is again troubled. It is an investment which brings a return by way of tax from the person who uses it. I believe it is for that reason that the principle has been enunciated that capital works should be started on borrowed funds.

Another fundamental mistake that the Financial Secretary has committed is when he says he has made some drastic cuts without impairing efficiency.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have no time to deal with that in detail.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I will finish in a couple of minutes.

The Financial Secretary says that drastic cuts have been made without crippling the growth of the nation-building departments. My observation with regard to this is it is perfectly true. It is a case of complete mutilation. You will find there is a grim vein of humour running through some of the budget estimates for certain departments—some of the nation-building departments. Last year, for instance, the funeral expenditure budgeted for the Medical Department was Rs. 800. The Financial Secretary says that the same amount has been fixed this year also and that no reduction has been made there. If I understand him aright, I think, he believes that the purchasing power of money has increased and that with this Rs. 800 more men could be buried. That, I believe, is consistent with his distribution of revenue.

I also believe that certain allotments made to the Agricultural and Industrial Departments could be increased. I want to speak further about the uselessness of these two departments.

It may be said that I have only offered destructive criticisms. I have also some constructive criticisms to offer but as the time is up I shall resume my seat and shall avail myself of the opportunity to speak on them when the respective demands come up for discussion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from the member what percentage land tax bears to the gross produce of double crop wet lands?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am unable to give a definite answer to that question. I tried to find it from the statistics published by the Government. But the figures appeared to be so confusing that I did not pursue the attempt.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I may mention for the information of the member that it varies from 7 to 17 per cent. of the gross produce. There will be 80 per cent. still left after paying tax. Does the member think that that would not suffice for the other expenses?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The report of the Banking Enquiry Committee says that scarcely anything is left after payment of tax; he cannot make both ends meet.

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MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : If the opportunity to discuss the Budget as a whole, or any question of principle is to be exercised in full, most emphatically I state that Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai's statement of the budget expenditure and of the revenues of the State is far from satisfactory. This Budget if it might be called estimated annual is no better than elaborate accounts of a commercial firm. Some of the fundamental principles of public finance and taxation are ignored in toto. What is presented here is a surplus budget of '53 lakh of rupees. According to the revised estimate for 1106 there is a deficit of 7·47 lakhs against the budgeted surplus of 2·02 lakhs. Now, granting that the economic depression lasts till the end of the financial year 1107, is it possible to have anything like a surplus? If the Financial Secretary is going to have a surplus for the year 1107, I must say, it is only an act of jugglery.

I am not quite concerned with a surplus or deficit budget. At any rate the Financial Secretary says that he is going to have a surplus budget. Let him have it. That amounts to overtaxation. It means that the Government take from the people more than what is necessary to run the Government machinery. The Government's policy of overtaxing the people to the extent of one cash or portion of a cash at a time when the effect of economic depression is felt in every nook and corner of the State—what shall I call it? A policy of organised deliberate exploitation or a policy of sucking up the very life blood of the average tax payer? Be that as it may, Sir there is considerable dissatisfaction among the tax payers of the State and particularly among those people in my taluk of Agastisvaram, so much so, they for the first time in the history of that taluk, with Bardolian spirit have gone to the extent of clamouring, why all this heavy tax of 27½ rupees for one acre of wet land. Sham, the Department of Industries a mere ornament to the State. Sham this and sham that.

Sir, in regard to the general principle involved in the Budget, may I ask the Financial Secretary, what is the unit of a State Budget? It is only a rural budget. Has the Government taken pains to study it? I should think unless and until Government makes it a point to study rural family budgets, I should think that a State Budget of this kind is bound to be a bundle of inconsistencies and no wonder that this Budget is so.

Now one thing which tells its own tale and which makes itself conspicuous by its absence is the silence of the Financial Secretary about effecting a substantial retrenchment. I lay emphasis on 'substantial' because the learned Financial Secretary might say that he has brought about a retrenchment of nearly 18 lakhs. But if you go through the items carefully, Sir, you will find that under salaries and establishment he makes a reduction of only '19 lakh. This is only a nominal reduction. I may even go to the extent of saying that this is no reduction at all, no retrenchment at all. You know that the appalling charges under salaries and establishment are something integral to the revenue of the State so that I may say that no retrenchment has been

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effected. I may tell the Financial Secretary that retrenchment has been the order of the day. If you read the history of England, America and Japan, in all these countries, retrenchment has been effected. Does the Financial Secretary think that Travancore forms an exception to it? Certainly not. It cannot be. So the one charge I lay before the Government is, that retrenchment, which is the order of the day, has not been effected by our learned Financial Secretary.

A few words about Excise. One thing I wish to notice is that the Government's Abkari policy is very reprehensible indeed. According to the revised estimate for 1106, there is a fall of 11·73 lakhs in the Excise Revenue, and, of these, 10·7 lakhs comes under Abkari and Opium. Thank God, that once at least in recent years the Excise Revenue has begun to fall. My pious wish is, that the revenue should reduce so considerably that it must become a cipher (*Laughter*). Sir, in the past years, both in the Council and in the Assembly, representations were made by the members that the drink evil should be abolished. But the Government have been very liberal in saying that they would take measures to stop it. But as a matter of fact nothing has been done. Does the Government stand for temperance? Does the Government preach temperance? Does the Government encourage private citizens to preach temperance?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the member be satisfied with temperance which means moderation?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): I want prohibition. I think Government do not encourage people in that direction. The innocent persons are hemmed in on all sides by Excise and Police Officers so that the policy of the Government is to make people drink. Well, that policy I condemn altogether. Now by saying that Excise Revenue should fall altogether I do not mean that Government should get impoverished. Far from it. The sanctity of human life and moral right for Government to exist are the two things that I care for. A word about decentralisation. Government, as it stands today, ought to be decentralised. Local Government is the order of the day. In all countries of the world you find it. It is working more satisfactorily. Even in British India, we speak of such things as Corporations, Municipalities, Taluk Boards, Village Boards and a host of other things. But in Travancore I do not think much progress is made in this direction. We have got only 19 municipalities and the budget grant allowed for these is a very meagre sum. I think it is about Rs. 15,000. If the Local Government is encouraged, Sanitary Department, Education Department and other departments can be handed over to the charge of Local Governments. That means, reduction in the expenditure of Government so that it is highly necessary that Government should see that Local Government is encouraged.

Now a word about Village Panchayats. Even in the days of Dewan Raghaviah it was talked about and a Regulation was even passed.

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Seven clear years have rolled by and yet the system has not been brought into effect. The one thing for which I thank the Financial Secretary is for this—that after seven years he has made an allotment of about Rs. 6,000 for these Panchayats.

"As an experimental measure, it is proposed to organise in 1107 two Panchayats in each of the Divisions of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam and the Dewan Peishkars have been asked to choose suitable centres. Under Section 44 (3) of the Village Panchayat Regulation, Government have to contribute an amount not less than three-fourths of the budgeted expenditure of each Panchayat for the first five years. A lump provision of Rs. 6,000 has accordingly been made under 38. Miscellaneous."

Now, I ask Government, what assurance is there, Sir, that this sum allotted for this Village Panchayat will not be diverted for another purpose in the course of the financial year. That is my question. Then about capital expenditure. One thing for which I charge Government is that Government are reprehensible in launching into extraordinary schemes of little practical utility, for instance, extension of the railway, construction of harbour, and investing a large capital in Railway outside the State and over which we have no control, water supply schemes, and all the rest of it, are sufficient examples to corroborate my statement. I do not say that these things are absolutely unnecessary. I only say that more things are to be done outside the capital. More things are to be done in country parts. What is required is a rural reconstruction. On the other hand, we find, that Government do not spend even a sum which could be mentioned for rural reconstruction work. There are dozens of villages where there are no roads for easy communication, no wells for drinking purposes, etc. So that my prayer is, that Government should be on the alert for effecting rural reconstruction schemes. There is no use of wasting money like anything on Capital Expenditure. I understand a lot of money is spent for the town of Trivandrum. I cannot say how far my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai will endorse that view.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not endorse that view to all. On the other hand we want much more to be spent for Trivandrum town.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): I thought as much. But I am sure if this House is asked to vote on this subject, Mr. Thanu Pillai alone will be on the one side and all the others on the opposite side.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That statement is disputed by me.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): And fully supported by many others.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of Travancore and the Department of Agriculture exists to enhance agriculture. But we find that the department

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s not working satisfactorily at all. It is a department, the activities of which are to be known to the ryots of the State. But as a matter of fact, it is only a department, the existence of which is least known to the ryots. In the Administration Report of 1105, we have read of such a thing as *kari* soil, *punja* soil and *ambrokia* soil and many other technical terms. My submission is, that these western methods of agriculture are not popularised to any extent at all. That is all the criticism I level against that department. Perhaps more money ought to be given to him. At any rate, as things stand at present, the department is not working to any satisfaction at all. I have my own doubts whether the department ought to be mended or ended. I leave it for the consideration of the Government.

The population of the State is growing year by year and the fecundity of the people is greater in Travancore than anywhere in India. Mr. Malthus said that while population increases by arithmetical progression supply of food diminishes by geometrical progression. Has the Government taken any measures to remedy this? No, I say.

If you go to Nanjanad, Sir, you will find that the ryots are not allowed to have green leaves from the forests in Aramboly. The forest conservancy rules are harsh. I think that these rules are to be written in letters of blood. So I ask the Head of that department to see that these Forest Laws are to be repealed forthwith in the interests of agriculture in Nanjanad, that is in Tovala and Agastisvaram.

Lastly, I wish to say a word about the powers given to this House. Sir, powers given to us are very limited. We are not allowed to discuss about the Interportal Convention which devitalises the State, nor are we allowed to discuss about Devaswoms which like a crocodile is consuming a huge part of our State Revenue.

Sir, the ambit of our discussion is very narrow. At least within the limits allotted, my submission is, that the Government should give credit to our opinions. Such replies as "noted," "may be considered," "Government do not propose to collect information," "the utility of supply is very little" such expressions, as these, are an open insult to members on this side of the House. So, I do hope that the Government would seriously consider the representations that I have made. With these words I resume my seat.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The audience in the gallery would kindly listen, and not make any noise. If some of you want to go out, do so, with the least disturbance possible.

I shall wait for another three minutes and if nobody rises from the non-official side, I shall have to close the proceedings.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഇന്ന് ചിലർക്ക് സംസാരിക്കുന്നതിന് മടിയുള്ളതുപോലെ തോന്നുന്നു. അതുപോലെ മടിച്ചിരിക്കണമെന്നുതന്നെ ഞാനും വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നേദിവസം മടിച്ചിരുന്നാൽ നാളെ ഒന്നുതന്നെപറയാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വന്നേക്കുമെ

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എന്ന് വിചാരിച്ച് ഇന്നതന്നെ സംസാരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ നിശ്ച യിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തത്.

സർ, ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി മി. നീലകണ്ഠപ്പിള്ള ഇവിടെ ചെയ്ത ബഡ്ജറുസ്പീച്ച് കേട്ടാൽ, ഒരു സർപ്ലസ്സ് ബഡ്ജറു അല്ലാതെ മറൊരു ബഡ്ജറും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൂടാ എ ന്നൊരു വ്രതം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുള്ളതുപോലെ തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): കണക്കുകൂട്ടിവന്നപ്പോൾ സർപ്ലസ് ബഡ്ജറു ആയിപ്പോയതാണ് എ ന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുവാൻപാടില്ലയൊ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അതെ, കണക്ക് കൂട്ടുന്നതിനെ പ്പറ്റിതന്നെയാണ് എനിക്കും പറയാനുള്ളത്. ഒരു ലക്കും ഇല്ലാതെ കണ ക്കുകൂട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ സ്വല്പം കൂട്ടുതൽതുകവന്നു. അതിനെ ക ളയണ്ട എന്ന് വിചാരിച്ച് ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തുവച്ചു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഈ ബഡ്ജറു മുഴുവനും നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കേവലം ഒരു കണക്കും ഇല്ലാ തെ ചിലതൊക്കെ എഴുതി ഉണ്ടാക്കി അതിനെ നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പിൽ അവ തരിപ്പിച്ചു എന്നാണ് എനിക്കു ആദ്യമായി തോന്നുന്നതു്. അതായതു് ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധ്യക്ഷൻ തനിക്കു് നാലു് പേർസനൽ അസിസ്റ്റ ൻറന്മാർക്കുടി വേണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചപ്പോൾ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കു് വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുകയ്ക്കുറച്ചു് ഇതിലേക്കു് മാറിക്കള യാം എന്നു് ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെ പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അഞ്ചു് ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടു് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ വേ ണമെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞാൽ വേറെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പൊതുജന ങ്ങളുടെ അത്യാവശ്യത്തിനുമായി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു തുകയെ ഈ അ വശ്യത്തിലേക്കു് ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഈ ബഡ്ജറുനോക്കിയാൽകാണുന്നതു്.

MR. R. NILAKANATA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഉപയോഗത്തിനു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുകയെ മറു വിധത്തിൽ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനു് കൌൺസിലിൻെറ അ നുവാദം വേണ്ടേ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): കൌൺസിലിൻെറ അനുവാദം വേണം.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): ചില പ്പോൾ അ വിധത്തിൽ ചിലവാക്കിപ്പോയി എന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനി ന്നും സ്റ്റേറുമെൻറും കൊണ്ടുവരാറില്ലെ?

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MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അങ്ങിനെയാണ് അനുവാദം വാങ്ങുന്നത്. ബഡ്ജറിൽ റിട്രഞ്ച്മെൻറിനെപ്പററി ചില തുകകൾ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പററി തന്നെ നോക്കാം. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ ഉപകാരപ്രദമായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യാനുള്ള തുകകളെ വെട്ടിക്കുറച്ചും, ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് യാതൊരു ഉപകാരവും ഇല്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം, യാത്രച്ചിലവു എന്നിവയ്ക്കുള്ള തുകകളിൽനിന്നും യാതൊന്നും വെട്ടിക്കുറയ്ക്കാതെയുമാണ് റിട്രഞ്ചുമെൻറു വരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതു എന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട P. W. D. ഇനത്തിൽനിന്നു വളരെക്കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു് വളരെക്കായ്മായി ഗണിക്കാനില്ല. P. W. D. ക്കു ബഡ്ജറിൽ പണം ചേർക്കുമെങ്കിലും ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ അതു ചിലവാകാതെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഖജനാവിൽ സർപ്ലസ്സായി വന്നുചേരുന്നുണ്ട്. ആണ്ടുതോറും അനുവദിക്കുന്ന പണം ലാപ്സ്ചെയ്തു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഖജനാവിൽപോകുന്ന തുക കുറവു എന്നെയുള്ളൂ.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Karthikapalli*): ആ കുറവു് ഇനിയും വരുത്താവുന്നതല്ലെ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): കുറവു് ഇനിയും വരുത്താൻ സാധിക്കും.

പിന്നീടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഉപകാരമായിട്ടുള്ള ആശുപത്രികൾക്കു നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പണത്തിൽനിന്നും ൪൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): മൃഗങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള മരുന്നിൻറെ തുകയുംകൂടി കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഉണ്ടു്. ആ തുകയിൽനിന്നും കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

അതിനു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി പറയുന്ന സമാധാനം മരുന്നുകൾക്കു് ഇപ്പോൾ വില കുറവുണ്ടെന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ മരുന്നുകളുടെ ക്യാററ്ലാഗ് ഞാൻ നോക്കിയതിൽ മരുന്നിൻറെ വില മുമ്പിലുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ സ്വല്പം കൂടുതലായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നതു്. അതിനു കാരണം ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടിയതാണു്.

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം എക്കണാമിക്ക് ഡിപ്രഷൻറെ കാരണത്തെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരൊ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയൊ ഒന്നും തന്നെ പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നില്ല.

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പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങൾ മീററിംഗുകൾകൂടി ടാക്സ് കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്ന റസല്യൂഷൻസ് പാസാക്കി ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് അയച്ചു. ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അതിനപ്പുറത്തി റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമുഖേന അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയതിന്റെ ഫലമായി റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നത് ൧൦ വർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പു കരംനിശ്ചയിച്ച കാലത്തുള്ള വിലയും ഇന്നത്തെ വിലയും ഏകദേശം ഒരുപോലേയാണ്; അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇന്നത്തെ ടാക്സ്നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട് ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല എന്നാണ്. അതിനാൽ ടാക്സ് കുറവുചെയ്തിട്ടാവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുപറഞ്ഞുഗവണ്മെൻറ് തള്ളുകയാണുചെയ്തത്. എന്നാൽ മുപ്പതു വർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പു ഭൂമിയുടെ വില എന്തായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് ഭൂമിയുടെ വില എന്ത്? മുപ്പതു വർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പ് ഓരോരുത്തരും വരവിന്റെ എത്ര ശതമാനം ടാക്സ് കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു? ഇപ്പോൾ പലവിധത്തിലുമായി ഓരോരുത്തർ ധാരാളം ടാക്സ് കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. Incidence of taxation എടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു കൃഷിക്കാരല്ലെ, നിങ്ങളല്ലല്ലൊ എന്നു പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഈ ടാക്സ് എല്ലാം indirect ആയിട്ട് ഓരോരുത്തരുടെ അടുക്കൽനിന്നും പോകുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണർ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊ എന്നു എനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്. ടാക്സ് കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ തീർച്ചയായിട്ടും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളമെങ്കിലും കുറച്ചു ഒരു റിലീഫ് വരുത്തേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതിനുള്ള വഴികൾ ഒന്നും ഇവിടെ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഉള്ള മിനിസ്റ്റർസിന്റെ ശമ്പളം നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു വളരെക്കുറവാണ്. ശീമയിലെ പ്രൈംമിനിസ്റ്റർക്ക് ഒരാണ്ടിൽ ൧൫,൦൦൦-ൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുണ്ട്. ക്യാനഡായിലെ പ്രൈംമിനിസ്റ്റർക്ക് ഒരാണ്ടിൽ ശമ്പളം ൭൫,൫൭൦ രൂപയാണ്. സൗത്ത്ആഫ്രിക്കായിലെ പ്രൈംമിനിസ്റ്റർക്ക് ഒരാണ്ടിൽ ൬൫,൫൭൦ രൂപയാണ്. ജപ്പാനിലെ പ്രൈംമിനിസ്റ്റർക്ക് ൪൯,൫൦൦ രൂപയാണു ശമ്പളം.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): മൈസൂരിലെ ശമ്പളം എത്രയാണെന്ന് അറിയാമൊ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അതു ഞാൻ നോക്കീട്ടില്ല. മൈസൂരും ഇവിടവും ജ്യേഷ്ഠാനുജന്മാരാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ അതിനെ സാരമായി വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. (ചിരി).

അതുപോലെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ദിവാൻജിയുടെ ശമ്പളം മൂവായിരം രൂപയാണ്.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): ജപ്പാനിലെ വരവ് എത്രയാണെന്ന് അറിയാമോ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഈ നാട്ടിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണവും വരവും നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ദിവാൻജിക്ക് കൊടുക്കുന്ന ശമ്പളം വളരെ കുടുതലാണ്. മുപ്പതുവർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പ് ദിവാൻജിക്ക് എത്രരൂപാ ശമ്പളം കൊടുത്തുവന്നിരുന്നു എന്ന് നോക്കുക. റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണരുടെ ആഗ്രമെന്റിനെ മീറുചെയ്യുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി നാം വർഷത്തിനു മുമ്പുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ അന്വേഷിച്ചുനോക്കി. എന്നാൽ ആ വിവരം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്ക് കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. ആ വിവരംകൂടി അറിഞ്ഞിട്ട് സംസാരിക്കാമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തിലാണ് ഞാൻ ഇന്നു സംസാരിക്കേണ്ട എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചത്.

ഇനി ഇവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കൽ ഭരണത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. മെഡിക്കൽഭരണം — ഈ ത്രിമൂർത്തികളെക്കൊണ്ടുള്ള ഭരണം — വേണ്ടെന്ന് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പല കാലങ്ങളായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടും ഇതുവരെ അതിനു ഒരു വ്യത്യാസവും വരുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കണ്ണ്, ചെവി, കണ്ഠം ഇവയുടെ ചികിത്സക്കായി ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സർജനെ പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ആ വിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ശീമയിൽപോയി പരീക്ഷജയിച്ച് വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിസർജൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ആലപ്പുഴ ഇരുന്ന് തിരുമാല എണ്ണിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തെ വേണ്ട എകപിപ്പ് മെൻറോടുകൂടി ഇവിടെ അക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സപ്തദിവസത്തിനുമുമ്പ് മാവേലിക്കര ആശുപത്രിയിൽ ഒരാളിനെ സബ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സർജനായി നിയമിച്ചയച്ചു. ആ ആളിന്റെ യോഗ്യത എന്താണ്, എന്തു ഡിഗ്രിയുണ്ട്, എവിടെനിന്നും പരീക്ഷജയിച്ചുവന്നു, ഇതൊന്നും അന്വേഷിക്കാതെയാണ് നിയമനം നടത്തിയത്. ഒരു T. S. R. പിള്ള എന്നോ മറ്റോ ആണ് അയാളുടെ പേര്. അവിടത്തെ ഡാക്ടർ അയാളെപ്പറ്റി പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ അയാൾക്കു ഇംഗ്ലീഷും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ, മലയാളവും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരാളിനെയാണ് സബ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സർജൻ ആക്കിയത്. പൂമതലബോധം ഇല്ലാത്തആളുകളുടെ പ്രവർത്തിയാണ് ഇത്. ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾ കൊണ്ടാണ് മെഡിക്കൽബോഡ്ഡ് ഭരണം നിറുത്തണമെന്ന് പറയുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദേഹംസംബന്ധിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കാനാണ്

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ഡാക്ടറന്മാരെ അയക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരു പഠിപ്പും യോഗ്യതയും ഇല്ലാത്തവർ വല്ല മരുന്നും എടുത്തുകൊടുത്തു് അതുനിമിത്തം ആരെങ്കിലും മരിച്ചു പോയാൽ അതിനു മെഡിക്കൽബോഡ്ു് ഉത്തരം പറയുമോ?

അതിനേപ്പറ്റി ചോദിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ 'ഞാനല്ല നിർമിച്ചതു്' എന്നു് ഓരോരുത്തരും പറയും. ഒടുവിൽ അവിടെ സിക്രിട്ടറി ആയിരിക്കുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യങ്കാരാണു് അതിനു് ഉത്തരവാദി എന്നു് വേണമെങ്കിൽ പറയും. ഇങ്ങിനെയാണു് മെഡിക്കൽബോർഡിന്റെ ഭരണം.

ഇനി എനിക്കു് പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകമ്മിറ്റിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ഞാൻ അതിനേപ്പറ്റി ഒരു കട്ട്മോഷൻ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകമ്മിറ്റിയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങം പറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റിപ്പറയുന്നതിനു് അപ്പോം സൗകര്യം കിട്ടുമൊ എന്നുള്ളസംശയം കൊണ്ടാണു് ഇപ്പോംതന്നെ സംക്ഷിപ്തമായി എങ്കിലും പറയാമെന്നു് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ ചെയ്യുന്നതുപോലെ ക്രൂരതൽ അന്യായം വേറെ ആരും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. വേറെ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് മേഡിക്കൽബോർഡിന്റെ പ്രവത്തിമാത്രമേയുള്ളു. ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ എന്തിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണു് ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകൾക്കു് വിലനിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അവരോടു ചോദിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഞാൻഇടയിടെ ഒരു പുസ്തകം എടുത്തു് നോക്കി. അതു് സംസ്കൃതത്തിലുള്ള സംക്ഷേപ രാമായണമാണു്. ഭാസ്കരപ്രസ്സിൽ നിന്നുമാണു് അച്ചടിച്ചിറക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആ പുസ്തകത്തിനേയും ക്രൂരതി ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു് വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ മറന്നുപോയി ആ പുസ്തകം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയകാലത്തു് അതിന്റെവില ഉടമസ്ഥൻ ഒരണയിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള പുസ്തകമാണു്. ആ പുസ്തകടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ ഇന്നു് തുപ്പിപ്പെട്ടു് സ്വീകരിച്ചപ്പോം, ആ പുസ്തകത്തെ അങ്ങനെവിടാൻ പാടില്ല, ആറു് അണവിലവയ്ക്കണം എന്നു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചു ഗസറിലും പബ്ലിഷ്ചെയ്തു. അതിൽ രണ്ടു് അക്ഷരത്തെറ്റുകൂടാതെയും രണ്ടു മൂന്നു അക്ഷരവുമല്ലാതെ വേറെ യാതൊന്നും ഇല്ല. ആ പുസ്തകത്തിനാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ആറണ വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിനു് വില വളരെ കൂടുതലാണു്; വിലകുറയ്ക്കണം, എന്നു് ജനങ്ങം പരാതിപറഞ്ഞപ്പോം ആറു് എന്നഎഴുതിയിരുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു് നാലു് എന്നാക്കി. ഈ വിലകൂടുതൽ നിമിത്തം കുട്ടികളുടെരക്ഷകത്താക്കന്മാർക്കു്

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[Mr. Rama Varma Raja.]

വളരെ സങ്കടമുണ്ട്. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. പുസ്തകം ആണ്ടുതോറും മാറുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് വളരെ ഉപദ്രവകരമാണു്. ഞാൻ മുമ്പു് ഒരിക്കൽ പറഞ്ഞതു പോലെ കവിത ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നവക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിമെമ്പർമാരിൽ ചിലർവേണ്ടപ്പെട്ടവർ ഉണ്ടു്. അവരെ ഒബ്ലൈജ് ചെയ്യാൻ വേണ്ടിമാത്രമാണു് അവരുടെ പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ എടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ കെ. ആർണാൾഡ് ആൻഡ് കമ്പനി എന്ന ഒരുകമ്പനി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ഒരു കമ്പനി ഞാൻ അന്വേഷിച്ചിടത്തോളം മദ്രാസിൽഇല്ലെന്നാണു് അറിവു്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ഈ പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ തിരിഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെൻറാണോ, കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരാണോ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അതു് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരാണെന്നാണു് തോന്നുന്നതു്.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നാണോ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ തിരിഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതു്.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): എന്നാൽ ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ തന്നെ പഴിക്കുന്നു. കമ്മിറ്റിയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ കളയേണ്ടതാണു്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ഗവണ്മെൻറാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെയും കളയണമോ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഞാൻ കമ്മിറ്റിയെ കളയണമെന്നാണോ പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരുടെ മനസ്ഥിതി ഒന്നു മാറേണ്ടതാവശ്യമാണു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കണമെന്നേ എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായം ഉള്ളൂ.

പുസ്തകം ആണ്ടുതോറും മാറാതിരുന്നാൽ ഒരു കുട്ടിയുടെ അനുജന്മാരായ മറ്റു കുട്ടികൾക്കു അതിനെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ആണ്ടുതോറും മാറരുതു്. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല രണ്ടുവർഷത്തെക്കു മാറരുതെന്നുകൂടി എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടു്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): നല്ലപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ അല്ലെങ്കിലും മൂന്നു വർഷത്തിനൊരിക്കലെ മാറാവൂ എന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): നല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങളേ നോക്കി എടുക്കാവൂ. അതിലേക്കു ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിതന്നെ ഉടച്ചുവാർക്കണം. ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ, സേവകന്മാരോ, ബന്ധുക്കളോ ആരുംത

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ന്ന ഇല്ലാത്ത ആളുകളെനോക്കി വയ്ക്കണമെന്ന കൂടി എനിയ്ക്കഭിപ്രായ മുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Sir, in reply to the speech of the Financial Secretary, introducing the Budget for 1107, I may at the very outset bring to the notice of the Government and this House that the Budget has not been provided for in accordance with the popular demands; and a Budget which fails to provide adequately in response to the exigencies of the time can never reach the maximum of efficiency. The Financial Secretary's speech which has been carefully prepared to suit varied needs and tastes leads me to seriously think whether after all it is not an ill-cooked financial document that would scarcely appeal to the sense of this side of the House.

The fall in the revenue which the Fnancial Secretary calls a deficite estimated at 7 lakhs and 47 thousand rupees is only perhaps the first of a series of deficits which the Government may have to face as the immediate results of an imasculated financial position we are forced to share along with the rest of the world.

In paragraph 5 of the Financial Secretary's statement, the revenue for the year is expected to fall short of the original estimates by 17 lakhs and 61 thousand rupees. He continues that the important items which contribute to this decline are Land Revenue 2 lakhs and 89 thousand rupees, Excise 11 lakhs and 73 thousand rupees, Forests 66 thousand rupees, Stamps 3 lakhs and 43 thousand rupees, and Registration 2 lakhs and 20 thousand rupees. Land Revenue, the Financial Secretary deplores, is expected to be less by 2 lakhs and 89 thousand although the revised estimate for the current year takes credit for nearly two lakhs, being the deferred payment of rent on Kandukrishi land, It therefore becomes necessary that the Financial Secretary be told that deferred payment of rent only bespeak the financial weakness of the people and is never a symptom of an economic exhuberance. It is well known that the remissions of revenue for the current year in the 15 districts of Burma amounted to 20 lakhs of rupees; and in the United Provinces it is 67 lakhs; while our Government are contented with a small nominal remission in the case of rubber planters (who form a minute section of our population), a terribly small reduction in the case of Kandukrishi pattom land from chuckrams 24 to 18 chuckrams, and a still more nominal waiving of demand notice fees. They have not paid heed to the popular demand for a general remission of tax.

The present economic depression has spared none, and has disabled many in satisfying their legitimate pecuniary demand and obligations. Government observe hermitic silence.....

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): On a point of order, Sir. Is the member allowed to indulge in manuscript eloquence?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I am keeping only my note, Sir.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : It appeared that he was reading.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : I chellenge the member to show that I am reading a manuscript.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may proceed Mr. Madhavan Pillai ; I cannot see your written speech.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : The salaries of officials in British India are about to be subjected to severe retrenchment by the committee of enquiry appointed for that purpose.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : (*To the galleries.*) Please, be quiet.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : The policy of Government to maintain a top heavy administration is diametrically opposed to popular interest. In this connection I would suggest that some of the departments which could be conveniently united into one may be combined and put under one head. For instance, in the Military Department there are three officers drawing very huge salaries. All these three offices may be abolished at this juncture and the Commissioner of Police may be asked to combine in himself the functions of the head of the Military and the Police Departments. It is not worthwhile that, at this juncture when the Government are able to show only a nominal surplus budget, the Government should spend such a huge amount on militia. It is also inconsistent with the interests of the people. This is the time for the Government to retrench the salaries of officers so that some remission could be granted to the poor tax-payer, and other effective steps could be taken to relieve the people. I may point out, in this connection, that the Banking Enquiry Committee has, in its report, made a suggestion attacking the utility of the State Aided Bank which is to some extent financed by the State. I may quote the Report of the Committee.

> "The State-Aided Bank which had among its foremost aims the financing of the small trader who could not get accommodation in the Imperial Bank, came up for severe criticism at the hands of some witnesses. We were told that the institution backed by Government resources ought to prove more beneficial to the trading community. It is alleged that it has no definite policy behind it and that, with every change in managership, the policy also changed. During the short period of four years' existence, the management has passed three hands. This bank should, by its position, set an example to other joint stock banks in the country. Had the bank, during its early career, the benefit of expert advice to shape and build up the policy of the institution and place it on a secure foundation, it would not have probably laid itself open to the charges now levelled against it. In view of the concessions it receives from the Government and the peculiar position it holds in relation to the State, the Government ought to do all in their power to shape its policy and working to the greater satisfaction of the public."

I may point out that the State Aided Bank was intended to be of help to the trading classes in the State. But, in practice, we find that it does not help either the common trader of the country or the poor agriculturist.

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I may also be permitted to suggest that the agricultural and the industrial loans which are to be advanced by the Government to the people in times of emergency are not at all being cared for now by the authorities.

I may also suggest that if the Government do not now adopt efficacious remedial measures,the present economic depression would ruin the ryots in the land. My suggestions to remedy the present situation are, firstly, that the Government must begin works of public utility in order to relieve unemployment. Secondly, they must grant loans on easy terms to the agriculturists and also adopt suitable measures to raise the prices of the products of the country. I would also suggest that the Government must undertake to collect all the raw products and stock them until the prices go up. If they would do it it would be of immense benefit to the producer here and would check the present economic depression.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The member suggests that the Government should collect and stock the raw products of the country. How long could copra, for instance, be kept in stock ?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Till we get better prices.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Is the member sure that copra would last undamaged till we get better days ?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : I am not referring to copra particularly. Pepper, for instance, may be stocked till the price goes up. Government alone can afford to do it. That is why I make this suggestion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You want, Mr. Madhavan Pillai, the Government to purchase all the products now exported from Travancore —copra, coir, dried ginger, turmeric,— store them in warehouses till the prices go up, and sell them at better prices ?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Do you think that that is a practicable proposition ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Does the member know that the total value of our exports comes to nearly eleven crores of rupees ?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : I do not mean all the products exported.

Then, with regard to the tariff policy of Government, I am sorry to observe that they do not follow a consistent policy. There is no consitent tariff policy to regulate our exports, except those introduced by men at the helm of affairs to suit the exigencies of the time or avert some incoming danger. There must be a consistent tariff policy for Government, especially in the case of copra, coir and cocoanut oil. The absence of a consistent tariff policy is a positive disadvantage to the producer as

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[Mr. K. P. Madhavan Pillai.]

well as to the consumer. I understand that Government have now reduced the tariff value in the case of some products without at the same time not affecting the tariff rate. Unless the tariff rate is also reduced on a par with the tariff value it would be of no use to the ryot.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : In cases where *advalorem* duties are levied, the amount of duty will depend on the tariff value of the commodity exported; and so, in such cases, the exporter will get some advantage if the tariff value is reduced.

MR K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I may now refer to the privileges of this House. In our neighbouring State of Cochin, as has already been pointed out, the non-official members have been given the privilege to elect a Deputy President from amoung themselves.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : They were given that privilege only at their last Budget meeting.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : We may be given that privilege at least now.

I would repeat that there are numerous high offices now being maintained by Government which entail huge expenditure. Some of them may be abolished with advantage; and the expenditure in regard to the rest may be curtailed to a considerable extent.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That has nothing to do with the privileges of this Council with which you were dealing last.

K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I may close with the request that the Government should bestow their earnest attention on the several suggestions that have been made by me and by the several members of the House. It is our pious hope that the Government would do it.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, may I congratulate the Financial Secretary for presenting to us a surplus Budget when we are under the shadow of an unprecedented economic depression and when we have already sustained a deficit of 7 and odd lakhs during the current year.

MR. K KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I request the member to speak a little louder ?

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : Though Government have already suffered a huge deficit during the current year, it is highly creditable that the Financial Secretary should have managed to present to us a surplus Budget though I am not enamoured of surpluses. It is very comforting to find, at least in the Budget that we do not spend more than what we get. But I fear that the economic depression is not going to end in the immediate future and if the Government propose to do anything more than giving a sop to the public by the appointment of committees and spending the time in anxious consideration of the proposals we have to meet with a deficit Budget. I shall not be sorry even if the Budget for 1107 had been a deficit budget provided Government had actively and sympathetically taken up measures to alleviate the distress of the people. The present depression

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is an eye-opener as the occasional famine of Orissa or the wide spread plague in Bombay. Government have tried to reduce their expenditure by cutting down the allotment for the Public Works Department and by withholding the arrears of pay of the low-paid vernacular school teachers. I must confess I am not able to find in the Budget, presented to us, any remarkable proposal for relieving the people of their suffering. We hear, very often, complaints that the salaries of the high paid officers are being increased and that new offices are being created and increments granted with retrospective effect, It is regrettable to note that, while the Government are very careful about the conservation of the interests of the high-paid officials, they have thought it fit to cut down the expenditure under the P. W. D. and to withhold the arrears of pay of the vernacular school teachers whose pay is already a mere pittance.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I inform the member that all arrears of pay due to the vernacular school teachers have been paid already?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Not all, I suppose.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The whole of it has been paid so far as Government schools are concerned.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): At the very outset I must say that the people of Travancore, especially those in my constituency suffer unspeakable hardship at present. Government may perhaps be under the impression that since the production of paddy, cocoanut, tapioca, pepper and other products has not decreased even during the present depression, the people would not be so bad. But, as a matter of fact, on account of the stringency of the money market, people find it extremely difficult to get money even for their necessaries. People who own lands form only a minority of the total population of the State. The majority, therefore, have to purchase their necessaries, and for that they have no money.

Then, Sir, the very bloated appearance of the gazette, the increase in its size now, clearly shows that people find it very difficult and even impossible to pay the arrears of *kist* on their lands, so that most of the lands are now being sold away for nominal prices for default in the payment of *kist*. Sir, the present depression is not going to end in the near future. It is only now that people realise their folly in subscribing to chitties and insurance companies and in ending up their children for higher education. I would therefore invite the attention of this House and of the Government to grapple with the situation and to do everything in their power to redress the grievances of the people. It seems to me that one of the most urgent measures required to ease the situation is to throw open the reserved forests near inhabited areas for the poor people for cultivation.

Another suggestion that I would make is to reduce the school fees by at least 50 per cent.

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There must be equitable distribution of long-term loans to agriculturists on easy terms.

Government must also suspend coercive steps, for the realisation of tax, for a reasonable period. I am not unaware of the fact that Government have recently issued orders with regard to this matter. But I would suggest that that is hardly sufficient to alleviate the growing distress of the people.

More allotment of money for Public Works would be of great help to the people at this juncture.

The reduction of export duties on some articles in proportion to their prices obtaining in British India would also be of very great help to the people.

These proposals, I know, involve heavy expenditure; but I urge upon Government that they should be prepared to spend even the last pie of their savings at this hour of dire need. The amount that they have spent on the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee would be sheer waste if they do not adopt even the mild proposals of that Committee. The calculations of the Account Office and the art of balancing the budget are quite unknown to the people; and they may not be able to appreciate it especially when they are suffering, mentally and physically, due to the present economic depression. Sir, the means that I have suggested are only temporary. I would also suggest that the salaries and T. A. of the high officials must be curtailed. It is well-known, Sir, that the officials are the only class of people who have been *benefited* by the present depression. I am not at all jealous of their position. I would only request them to realise that the poor tax-payer too must be able to maintain himself in the struggle for existence. Otherwise, they will cease to believe the law of *karma* and in the theory of the survival of the fittest. Sir, there is a proposal in the air to reduce a certain percentage in the salaries of some of the officers. I agree with it, not only for the present, but also as a permanent measure. Considering the standard of living in Travancore and the financial capacity of the average citizen here, no officer should be paid more than Rs. 500 as salary. It is certainly necessary that the lowest peon should get not less than Rs. 15. The suggestion may seem revolutionary if a comparison is instituted with some of the heaven-born Government servants in British India. But if you take the case of any country where the voice of the people is heard, you would find that the highest officers are paid only salaries which would just suffice for their livelihood, according to *their* standard of living of course. In those countries people accept high offices more for the sake of doing good to their fellow countrymen than as a profession to earn money. Even if we view public service as a profession, I think Rs. 500 is a very decent sum for Travancore conditions. The practice of importing highly-paid foreigners for some of the offices in the State is highly detrimental to the interests of this country. I am not against the importation

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of foreigners when it is absolutely necessary. But I will certainly raise my voice of protest against it when we have competent men here to fill the vacancies concerned. It has to be proclaimed from house-tops that in this small State there are too many offices, many of them having been created to oblige particular individuals. I would therefore repeat my suggestion that a scheme of retrenchment must immediately be taken on hand. The Government must also concentrate their attention in standardising the rates of T. A. and giving fixed T. A. to all officers if possible.

Another matter which requires the consideration of Government is the organisation of big industries within the State and the appointment of competent travelling agents to find out good markets for Travancore products. For instance, if the Government have started soap, biscuit and rubber factories here, we would not have been handicapped by foreigners. The existence of the Industrial Department, as it is, is a nuisance. The Experts of the department have been brewing nothing in the laboratories, and it seems as though we would have to wait till Doomsday for them to show us something tangible. A lot of money could be saved by the abolition of that department and by distributing the officers of that department between the Agricultural and the Education Departments.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know the opinion of the member with regard to the Agricultural Department, is it more useful or useless than the Industrial Department?

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : Why should we compare the two? Let us think of one rather than two.

I think the retirement of Mr. I. C. Chacko may be considered as the most auspicious moment to toll the knell of that department. The department of show may be stopped and the money may be spent for some other useful purposes.

Another department which consumes a lion's share of our money is the Education Department. I feel rather elated when reports appear in papers that Travancoreans are best educated in India. But knowing as I do the conditions in the country, the educational expenditure can be retrenched consistent with our position and efficiency. Government are mostly concerned with the education of the population. The maintenance of primary schools and the organisation of a library department as in Baroda will promote popular education. It is a surprise that a country which prides itself upon education has not yet found its way to organise libraries. Libraries are useful to promote education among the people and also encourage the literary man to write good books. Once an educational retrenchment committee was appointed and that committee made the suggestion that all Higher Grade Vernacular schools may be abolished and in their places Anglo-Vernacular Middle schools may be started, and that most of the Government schools may be handed over to private agencies and public bodies for management. The report of that committee seems to have been laid into the archives of Government. I suggest that the time has come for its exhumation

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and idolisation. Now Government are maintaining too many Colleges. Two Colleges in Arts and Science, one College for men and one for women will be sufficient. The immediate need of the hour, is the establishment of technical schools, mills, improve industries and help the people in various ways. Now, Sir, I would have to advert to the selection of text-books because that subject has become important in these days of scarcity. Now, books written by every Tom, Dick and Harry who can canvass the support of the Text-Book Comittee and the authorities are being prescribed as Texts Books to deplete our money and to molest the intelligence of the chidren. It is now a weapon in the hands of Government to silence the vociferous press men to encourage sycophant journalists to patronise favourites and to help the members of the Text-Book Committee. The selection of text books is a scandal and it is certainly a pestilance to the guardians of the boys. Government should buy the copyright of text-books and prescribe them as texts for at least three years. Sir, I have to be brief. I have referred to the important matters which should require our immediate consideration before we are asked to vote the budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : How many minutes more, Sir ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is now 4-20. You began at four.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, I request you to give me a few minutes more.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : We are now complaining that the Government are not sympathising with the aspirations of the people. Many pious resolutions passed by this august Assembly are brushed aside without giving any explanation. I shall quote one instance. In 1099 a resolution was moved in this House to start suitable and immediate measures to commemorate the name of the late Maharaja, that enlightened and distinguished Sovereign whose rule was our blessing and our privilege. Nothing seems to have been done. If Government are to be dilatory so far as that particular matter in which both the Government and the people are interested, it is not surprising that as yet the people who have elected us asked us a number of questions. What could we do in this Council ? Our resolutions are not respected. and the money spent for the election and the Council is a waste. Sir, now, there is a rumour that there is going to be an Executive Council.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think you will have to leave it. If you have to propose the suggestion of the creation of an Executive Council you may do it.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : I may be permitted to express an opinion.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up. Do not refer to rumours.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : We are unable to hear either the member or the Deputy President.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am so sorry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I rise to a point of order. When the speaker of the House stands up can the member remain standing ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He will pick it up.

Do not refer to rumours because others may also say that there are other rumours, that will drag us on to innumerable things. Have you finished, Mr. Krishnan Nayar ?

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : No, Sir. I shall be wanting in duty if I fail to mention one or two facts. One is the violation of popular rights, and the other, enactment of repressive laws. People can understand that the weapons in the hands of Government are made use of for the protection of Government at times of extreme necessity. It is now used against the temperance workers and political opponents and others. There has been no period which could rival this in the throttling of popular liberty.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know from the member what he means by the expression 'this' ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You can proceed.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : He has not answered me.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is his privilege to answer or not. He is not bound to answer. If you mean to answer him you may do so, Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : Molesting political progress of the Congress institution is another instance of the unpopularity of the Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I have given you full twenty five minutes. Now you have to stop.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*) : In conclusion, before I sit down I wish to request with all the earnestness I can command that the Government should adopt immediate steps for alievating the distress of the people. Besides that they are bound to explain how their policy is to be justified.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am sorry I cannot allow you any more time. You have any number of opportunities to explain.

MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vaikam*) : സർ, ലോകം ഒട്ടുക്കു ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷീണവും വളരെ നാളായി അശിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന വൈക്കസിലെ ആളായ കറവും കൊണ്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ സർപ്ലസ് കാണിച്ച ബഡ്ജറ്റ്

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[Mr. A. Narayana Pillai.]

തയ്യാറാക്കിയ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ അനുമോദിക്ക തന്നെ ചെയ്യണം. ഈ സാമ്പത്തീകാധഃപതനം കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ തന്നെ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതായും അതിനു വേണ്ടി പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡി. യിൽ ഏതാനും സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചതായും പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽസാമ്പത്തീകാധഃപതനത്തിന്റെ —ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിന്റെ—മൂർദ്ധന്യാവസ്ഥയിൽ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതു പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡി. ജോലി ഒന്നുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രമാണോ. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു വകുപ്പിലെ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു തുക—അതായതു നാല് ലക്ഷം രൂപാ—കുറച്ചതു ഒരു സാഹസമായിപ്പോയി എന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതു സാഹസമായിപ്പോയി എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മാത്രം മതിയോ? വരുന്ന കൊല്ലത്തെ പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡി. ബഡ്ജറിൽ വ ലക്ഷം രൂപായാണ് കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ദാരിദ്ര്യശമനത്തിനു എന്താണ് വഴി; ആളുകളെ ഏതു തരത്തിലാണ് സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതു്; എന്നുള്ള ഒരാലോചനയാണ് എല്ലാവരുടേയും മനസ്സിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിനായിട്ടു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരിച്ച് ആ കമ്മിറ്റി ജോലി ചെയ്തു വരുന്നതായിട്ടു കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ക്രൂതലായിട്ടു അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽ നിന്നു തന്നെ വ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കുറച്ചതായി കേൾക്കുന്നതു സങ്കടകരമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ക്രൂതൽ തുക ഈ ഇനത്തിലേക്കു മാറ്റി വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാകുന്നു.

സാമ്പത്തീകാധഃപതനം നാട്ടുകാരെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞ ഈ പതനത്തിൽ നാട്ടുകാരെ സഹായിക്കാനായി ഏതാനും ചില സംഗതികൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതു് താരിപ്പു വിലയിൽ ൨ ൦ ശതമാനം കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ കുറച്ചപ്പോൾ കൊപ്രായുടെ താരിപ്പു വില വ ൦ രൂപായായി. എന്നാൽ കൊപ്രായുടെ ശരാശരി ൪ ൦ രൂപാ മാത്രം വിലയുള്ള ഇക്കാലത്തു വ ൦ രൂപാ താരിപ്പു വിലവച്ചു കണക്കാക്കുന്നതാണോ നാട്ടുകാക്കു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട സഹായം?

കരം കൊടുത്തു തീർക്കേണ്ടതായ അവധി കർക്കടകമാസം അവസാനം വരെ നീട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. അതു നാട്ടുകാക്കു ചെയ്തു കൊടുത്ത സഹായമാണോ, അതല്ല കരം പിരിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേയ്ക്കു അടയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ചെയ്തു കൊടു

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ത്ത സഹായമാണോ എന്ന സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന. ഇടവത്തിലോ മിഥുനം അവസാനത്തിലോ കരം മുഴുവനും പിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കാൻ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ടവരുന്നവരെ കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുന്നതിന വേണ്ടി അല്ലെ എന്നുകൂടി വിചാരിക്കാം. ഇതിന മുൻപു പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും പ്രജാസഭാ, നിയമസഭാ ഈ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ, നോട്ടീസുപടി അനാവശ്യമായി കുടികളിൽ ചുമത്തി നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന എന്ന പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ ഫലമായി അത്യാവശ്യം വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന കേസ്സുകളിൽ മാത്രമേ നോട്ടീസ് അയയ്ക്കാൻ പാടുള്ള എന്ന് ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥ ഉള്ളതായി എനിയ്ക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു് ഒരു തണ്ടപ്പേരിൽ തീക്കേണ്ട കരത്തിനായി എട്ടു നോട്ടീസ് അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ നോട്ടീസു ചിലവു പിരിയ്ക്കുണ്ടഎന്ന വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തു കാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു.

എതായാലും ഇത്രമാത്രം സൌജന്യം ചെയ്തു കൊടുത്തതു കൊണ്ടു നാട്ടിൽ ക്ഷാമത്തിന യാതൊരു കുറവും വന്നിട്ടില്ല. രണ്ടു രൂപാ കരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ റബ്ബറിന ഒരു രൂപാ കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്ന തീരുമാനിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ നാളികേരത്തിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായം എത്രമാത്രം ആണെന്നും അതിലേയ്ക്കു എന്തുമാത്രം കരംകൊടുക്കുന്ന എന്നും ഗവണ്മെന്റു അറിയേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. തെങ്ങിന കരം ഉണ്ടു്; നാളികേരത്തിന കരമുണ്ടു്; മടലിന കരമുണ്ടു്; തൊണ്ടിന കരമുണ്ടു്; കൊപ്രായ്ക്കു കരമുണ്ടു്; വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കു കരമുണ്ടു്. ഇത്രയും കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതായ തെങ്ങുകളുടെ തല ഒടിഞ്ഞു പോകാതിരിയ്ക്കാൻക്കുടി ഗവണ്മെന്റു നോക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിനാൽ ഈ കാലസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു തെങ്ങുകൃഷിക്കാക്കും ശരിയായ സൌജന്യം നാംകേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

ഇങ്ങനേയുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ, നാളികേരത്തിൽ നിന്നോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഭൂമി ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നോക്കൂടുതൽ കരം ചുമത്തി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ വരുമാനം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ—ഇനിമേൽ ചുമത്തുന്ന ഓരോ പൈസയും അവർക്കു ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഭാരമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കാര്യം നിർവ്വഹിക്കുവാൻ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരിനത്തിൽ പണം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതും സമ്മതിയ്ക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. അതിലേയ്ക്കായി അനേകം കാലമായിട്ടു നിയമസഭാഅംഗങ്ങളും നാട്ടുകാരും പ്രതിപാദിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ, വൻപിച്ച ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു തുക കുറച്ചു്, അവരുടെ

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[Mr. A. Narayana Pillai.]

വാദത്തിനു ഒരു സമാധാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിനു വളരെ സൌകര്യമുള്ളതായിട്ടും കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ലാൻറ്റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ മൂന്നു് പേഷ്കാരന്മാരും രണ്ടു് താലൂക്കുകളുടെ ഭരണത്തിനായിമാത്രം ഒരു കമ്മീഷണരും, ഇവരുടെ എല്ലാപേരുടേയും മുകളിലായി ഒരു റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരും ഉണ്ടു്. സഞ്ചാരസൌകര്യം വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഇക്കാലത്തു ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പേഷ്ക്കാരന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു മാത്രം മതിയാകുന്നതാണു് ഇങ്ങനെ കുറവുചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഒരു ഗണ്യമായ തുക ആണ്ടുതോറും ലാഭം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. പോലീസ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറു് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണം എന്നു് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽതന്നെ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ വാദിച്ചതായും അതു് പാസായതായും ആണു് എൻെറ അറിവു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഫലം ഉണ്ടായില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല ഇപ്പോൾ ട്രാഫിക്കിലേക്കു ഒരു ഡി. എസ്സ്. പി. കൂടി കൂടുതൽ വേണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെകുറച്ചു് അതിൽ ഒരാളിനു് ട്രാഫിക്കിലേക്കു നിയമിച്ചാൽ പോരയോ? ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലെ ഒരു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടിനോളം വലിപ്പംവരുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പോലീസ്വകുപ്പിനെ ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനു നൽകുന്ന ശമ്പളം എത്രമാത്രമാണു്. ക്രസ്റ്റ 0 0-രൂപായാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. ഇരുപത്തിയാറു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്റ്റുകൾ അടങ്ങിയ മദിരാശി പ്രസിഡൻസിയിലെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ജനറലിൻെറ ശമ്പളം ൨൫ 0 0-രൂപാമുതൽ ൩ 0 0 0 രൂപാവരെമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. ഇങ്ങനെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് മേധാവികൾക്കു് എത്ര വൻപിച്ച തുകയാണു് ശമ്പളമായിട്ടു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്! അഞ്ചൽ, രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ, എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ വലിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളായിട്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഗണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നാന്നൂറോ അഞ്ഞൂറോ രൂപാക്കുതാഴെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ശരിയായിട്ടു ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതായിട്ടു് കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്; അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് സമ്മതിക്കുന്നമുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങനെ കുറഞ്ഞശമ്പളത്തിൽതന്നെ വൻപിച്ച ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതായി ഗവണ്മെൻറുസമ്മതിക്കുന്നസ്ഥിതിക്കു് പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണരെപ്പോലെ വൻപിച്ച തുക ശമ്പളംകൊടുത്തു ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഈ മാതിരി അനാവശ്യവും വേണ്ടാത്തതും ആയ ശമ്പളങ്ങളേയോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ

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ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേയോ കൂടുച്ച ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണു് തുപീകരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ തുപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിൽ മരുന്നുകൾക്കും പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡി. വേലകൾക്കും ഉള്ള പണമാണു് കൂടുച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ക്ഷാമം വർദ്ധിക്കുമ്പോൾ സുഖക്കേടുകളും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരും എന്നുള്ളതു സാധാരണ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. സുഖക്കേടു് വർദ്ധിക്കുമ്പോൾ മരുന്നു കൂടുതൽ വേണ്ടിവരികയും അതിലേക്കു കൂടുതൽ പണം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിവരികയും ചെയ്യും. ഇതെല്ലാം കരുതി ബഡ്ജറു് തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു.

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ മെഡിക്കൽ വകുപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടുവാക്കു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. ആയുർവ്വേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് ഇവിടെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടു് ഏകദേശം നാല്പതു കൊല്ലത്തോളം ആയി. അതിൻറെ നേരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാണിക്കുന്ന നയം തീരെ തുപ്തികരമല്ലാത്ത ഒന്നാണെന്നു പറയാതിരിയ്ക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വൈദ്യത്തിനു ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്ന തുകയുടെ, ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെകണക്കനുസരിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം, ഏകദേശം പതിനാലിൽ ഒരുഭാഗമേ ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിനു ചിലവാക്കുന്നുള്ളു. നാട്ടുവൈദ്യം നാട്ടിൻറെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുന്നതും ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നതും ആയ ഒരു ചികിത്സാസമ്പ്രദായം ആണു്. ഈ നാട്ടിൻറെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു്—ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൻറെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു്—നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരുടെ സഹായമാണു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഏറ്റവും ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉപകരിച്ചുവരുന്നതും. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വൈദ്യന്മാരെ കിട്ടുന്നതുതന്നെ വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണു്. താലൂക്കിൻറെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തുമാത്രം കാണപ്പെടുന്ന ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വൈദ്യന്മാരെ മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേയ്ക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകണമെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ പണം ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. അങ്ങനെയിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു്—നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് കൂടുതൽ ഉപയോഗം ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു്—നല്ല നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരുണ്ടെന്നു എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു്—നാട്ടുവൈദ്യശാലകളോടു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഈ നയം ഒരിയ്ക്കലും അഭിമാനകരമല്ല.

ഇനി വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി എൻറെ പല സ്നേഹിതന്മാരും അഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഇതേ നിലയിൽ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടവും സങ്കടകരവും ആയ ഒരു കാര്യമാണു്.

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[Mr. A. Narayana Pillai.]

ഇതിൽ അനേകം വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരുണ്ട്. അവരെ ഓരോ ജോലികൾ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതൊക്കെ ആയാലും നാട്ടിനു യാതൊരു ഗുണവും ഉണ്ടായതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രധാന തൊഴിലും അഭിരുചിയും കാർഷികമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു മറ്റു വ്യവസായം വളരുകയില്ല എന്നൊരഭിപ്രായം ഉണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ വ്യവസായവിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തചിലവിന്മേൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനു ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തി വിടുകതന്നെ വേണം. വമ്പിച്ച തുക ഈ മാതിരി ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ ഒരിയ്ക്കലും അനുവദിക്കരുതു്.

കൃഷികൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഉപജീവനംകഴിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ശരിയായ ഒരു പ്രയോജനം കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടില്ല എന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. തീരെ കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെ തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്ന നിലങ്ങളും പുരയിടങ്ങളും ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. നാട്ടിൻെറ ഓരോ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നടന്നു് ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായി കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഇന്ന ഇന്ന കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ ഇന്ന ഇന്ന ഫലം കിട്ടും എന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നതന്നെ പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജഗോപാലാചാര്യർ ദിവാൻജിയുടെ കാലത്തു് വൈയ്ക്കത്തു ഒരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്സ്കൂൾ പണിയിക്കുന്നതിനായി കായൽകരയിൽ ഒരു ഒന്നാംതരം സ്ഥലം എടുത്തിട്ടിരുന്നു. പിന്നീടു ആ നയം ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്സ്കൂൾ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥലം മാതൃകാകൃഷിത്തോട്ടത്തിനായി വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിരിയ്ക്കയാണു്. എന്നാൽ അതല്ല വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വൈയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ തന്നെധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. അവിടങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം പ്രവേശിച്ചു് ഇന്ന ഇന്ന തരത്തിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ ഇന്ന ഇന്ന തരത്തിലുള്ള അനുഭവങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന നയം കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു തുടരുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ മൂന്നിൽ ഒരുഭാഗം ഇപ്പോൾ വനമായിട്ടു് ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. ശരിയായ ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്ന പരാതിയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു്. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ വേണ്ട വഴികൾ ചെയ്യാതെയിരിക്കുന്നതു കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. വനത്തിലെ ആദായം വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നതു്. ഇതിനും പുറമേ പച്ചിലവളംപോലും വ

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നങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്ന് സങ്കടംപറയുന്നവരും ഇല്ലാതില്ല. ആകപ്പാടെ വന്നംവക ഭരണം തീരെ തൃപ്തികരംഅല്ലാ എന്നതന്നെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഈ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം കാരണം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണസ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ അഭാവമാണ് എന്നാണ് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു നയം ഗവണ്മെൻറുകൂടി സ്വീകരിച്ച് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം സ്ഥാപിച്ച് ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്ക് പരിഹാരം വരുത്തുകയാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രധാനമായിചെയ്യാനുള്ളത്.

(No one stood up to speak for some time.)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Shall I take it that nobody else wishes to speak from the non-official side?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Five O'Clock is the time for adjournment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, you can speak even longer if necessary. I have got the discretion to extend the time.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): സർ, എനിക്ക് ആദ്യമായിട്ട് പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനുള്ളത് എനിക്കു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളതായ ബഡ്ജറുബുക്കിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ബഡ്ജറുതുടങ്ങിയുള്ളതായ സകല ഗവണ്മെൻറുനടപടികളും തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നത് ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽതന്നെ വേണം എന്നതുള്ളതെങ്കിലും, മലയാളത്തിൽക്കൂടി തയ്യാറാക്കണം എന്നുള്ള ഒരഭിപ്രായം ഞാൻ ആദ്യമായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Does the member say that it should not be in tamil too?

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): തമിഴിലും തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതു എനിക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷംതന്നെയാണ്.

ഈ ബഡ്ജറു കിട്ടിയതിന്റെശേഷം അതുപഠിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ട് രണ്ടു മൂന്നു ദിവസത്തെ അവധി ഈ കൌൺസിലിനു അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുവെങ്കിലും എനിക്കു ഇരുപതു ദിവസംകൊണ്ടു ഇതിൽനിന്നും യാതൊന്നും മനസ്സിലായിട്ടില്ല. ഇന്നു ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ചില പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ നടക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിൽനിന്നും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയാണു ഇതിലൊക്കെ തകരാറുകാരൻ എന്നാണു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു. (ചിരി) ഞാൻ ഏകദേശം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിടത്തോളം ഈ ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കും ചില അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറു പാസാക്കിയതിന്റെ ശേഷമാണു ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഇത്രയധികം ദാരിദ്ര്യം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു

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[Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiripad.]

ഞാൻ ഇങ്ങോട്ടുപോരുമ്പോൾ, എന്നോടു "തിരുമേനീ ദാരിദ്ര്യം വളരെ കലശലായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിലെങ്കിലും ഒരു വലിയതുക ദാരിദ്ര്യനിവാരണത്തിനായി മാററി വയ്പിയ്ക്കണേ" എന്നു ചിലർ പറഞ്ഞതനുസരിച്ചു് നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു ഒരു വാക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയാണു് ഞാൻ ചെയ്തതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടെ വന്നുനോക്കിയപ്പോൾ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ക്ഷാമനിവാരണത്തിനായി യാതൊന്നും തന്നെ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): ബഡ്ജറിൽ നാലരലക്ഷം രൂപാകൃഷിവായ്പയ്ക്കു മാററിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): അതു കടം കൊക്കാനായിട്ടാണല്ലോ. നാലരലക്ഷംരൂപാകൊണ്ടു ഒരു താലൂക്കിലേക്കു പോലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കടം കൊടുക്കണം എന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ അല്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Karthikapalli*) : കൃഷിവായ്പകിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ റഗുലേഷൻ അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള കായ്കണ്ടം ഒക്കെ വേണ്ടേ?

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): വേണം. കടംവാങ്ങിക്കാൻ ഉറപ്പു കൊടുക്കണം; പലിശകൊടുക്കണം; ഇതൊക്കെവേണം.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പ്രധാനമായികാണുന്നതു തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയാണു. തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നവകയ്ക്കായി ഒരു വലിയസംഖ്യ അതായതു അൻപതുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററിയാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി അൻപതുലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവുചെയ്തു കാണുന്നതു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു അഭിമാനകരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിതന്നെ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതി ഇന്നത്തെ നിലയിൽ മാററാതിരിയ്ക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുവാനെ തരമുള്ളു. കാളേജിൽ നിന്നും ആണ്ടുതോറും അനവധി യുവാക്കന്മാർ ബിരുദധാരികളായി വെളിയിൽ വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവക്കെന്താണു തൊഴിൽ? സയൻസ് എടുത്തു പാസായ ഒരാൾ ഡിഗ്രിഎടുത്തുവെളിയിൽവന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എവിടെയാണു ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടുകഎന്നുനോക്കുകയായി. ദേവസ്വം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഒരു സൂപ്രണ്ടുദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നു. അയാൾ പാസായ സയൻസിനും ദേവസ്വത്തിനും തമ്മിൽ എന്താണു് സംബന്ധം? ഒരു സംബന്ധവുമില്ല. അതുതന്നെയും കിട്ടാത്തപക്ഷം അയാളുടെ ജീവിതം വളരെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയി

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ൽ വന്നുചേരും. സ്വന്തം തൊഴിൽചെയ്തു ഉപജീവനം കഴിക്കാം എ ന്നു വിചാരിച്ചാൽതന്നെയും അതും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതികൊ ണ്ടു സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല.

ഇനി മലയാളം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെപ്പറ്റിനോക്കാം. മലയാളം ഏ ഴാംക്ലാസ് പാസായി സ്വസ്ഥമായിരിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾ അസംഖ്യമുണ്ട്. ജന്മിമാരായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ക്ലാക്കന്മാരായിട്ട് ഇവരെ വെച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചാൽ അവർക്കു എഴുതാനും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ; കണക്കു കൂട്ടാനും അ റിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ; അവരും തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ നടക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ തൊഴിലി ല്ലായ്മ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു നയമാണു ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാ ഭ്യാസരീതിയിൽ കാണുന്നതു്. ഈ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതി മാറേണ്ടതാണു്. മിസ്റ്റർ രാമവർമ്മരാജാ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഒരണാ വിലയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതാ യ പുസ്തകം ട്ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കാക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു അതി ന്റെ വില ആറണയാക്കി. എന്നാൽ ഒരണാവിലയുള്ള പുസ്തകം ഈ ക്ഷാമത്തിന്റെനില നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അര അണാവച്ചു വില്ക്കേണ്ടതായി രുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വിലകൊടുത്തു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങി കുട്ടികളെ വി ദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിൽ രക്ഷകർത്താക്കന്മാർ എത്രമാത്രം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട നുഭവിക്കുന്നു എന്നു് പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻവയ്യാ. അതിനാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാ സവകുപ്പാട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ആകമാനം ഒന്നു പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

രണ്ടാമതായി എനിയ്ക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ ൻറിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണം എന്നൊ ക്കെഇവിടെ അഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഏതായാലും പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഒരുമാതിരി ന്യായമായി നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നാണു് വി ശ്വസിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെപരി ഷ്കാരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായം ഒന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. ഒരു മാന്യനും വിദശ്വനും ആയ ഒരാളാണു ഇതിന്റെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ, അതുകൊണ്ടു് അദ്ദേഹം അതു വേണ്ടപോലെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചുകൊള്ളും.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ ൻറിന്റെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും അതുപോലെ ഒരു മാന്യനല്ലേ?

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ഒരി യ്ക്കലും മാന്യന്മാരല്ല എന്നെനിയ്ക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. ഇവിടെ പറയുന്ന അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ അവർ ആദരിക്കണമെന്നുമാത്രമേ എനിക്കഭിപ്രായ മുള്ളൂ. വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും വളരെ യോ ഗ്യനാണു്.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിന്റെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറ'നെ നന്നാക്കുന്നതുപോലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിനെ നന്നാക്കിക്കൊള്ളുകയില്ലേ?

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jeunies*): ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറ നന്നാക്കുന്നതിനു അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഞാൻ ഒന്നുകൂടി ഓർമ്മിപ്പിച്ചു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി കുറച്ചു പറയാനുണ്ട് തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കൊക്കെ ഒരവലംബം ആയിരിക്കേണ്ടതു വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറാണ്. തൊഴിലില്ലാതെവരുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് തൊഴിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട എല്ലാ സൌകര്യങ്ങളും, എല്ലാസമയത്തും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതു സാവകാശത്തിൽ ഭാവിയിൽ വരും എന്നൊരുപക്ഷേ പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഇതുവരെയായിട്ടും ആ ഭാവിയുടെ ലാഞ്ഛന കുറച്ചെങ്കിലും കണ്ടിരുന്നു എന്നുവരുകിൽ ഒരുവിധംആശിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതൊന്നുമില്ല.

ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഭ്രഗർഭശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ നാലഞ്ചു കിണറുകൾ കുഴിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പരിജ്ഞാനം എനിക്കില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അടുത്തകൊല്ലം അഞ്ചെട്ടു കിണറുകൾകൂടി കുഴിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതു ഭാവിയിൽ നന്നായിവരുമെന്നു ഞാൻ സമാധാനപ്പെടുന്നു. ഈ വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിനെ ഒന്നു പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

പിന്നീട് ഉപയോഗമില്ലാത്ത വേറെചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറുകളും കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിലൊന്ന് ആക്കിയാളജിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറാണ്. ആക്കിയാളജിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിന്റെ അർത്ഥം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിക്കു കാണാതെകിടക്കുന്ന പുരാതനവസ്തുക്കളെ കണ്ടെടുത്തു ജനങ്ങളെഅറിയിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതു്. അങ്ങനെ ഇരിക്കുന്നടത്തോളംകാലം അതു വളരെ നല്ലതാണ്. തൈക്കം, ശുചീന്ദ്രം, ഈ ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങളിലെ ചുവർച്ചിത്രങ്ങൾ എടുത്തു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും ശുചീന്ദ്രം ക്ഷേത്രത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു വിമർശനത്തിനു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട

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മെൻറിനെ കൂടുതലായി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതായാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടും വളരെ ഉപകാരം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്.

ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ തമ്പുരാനും മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണപിള്ളയും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ സംസാരിച്ചു. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഒട്ടുക്കു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ തുച്ഛമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഖ്യയാണു് ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കൊക്കെ ആധാരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഈ ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു്. അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതും ആണു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഈ തുച്ഛമായ സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊന്നും നടക്കുകയില്ല. വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും ഒരു മരുന്നു്, സമുദ്രത്തിലെ കാറ്റും കോളുംകൊണ്ടു് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു വന്നുചേരാൻ പാടില്ലെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ രോഗികൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോകും. ഈ ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിൻറെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കായിട്ടു് ഒരു ഔഷധത്തോട്ടം വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഒരു ഔഷധത്തോട്ടം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അതിനെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ശരിയായി പരിപാലിയ്ക്കാതെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ശരിയാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻറെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കു തടസ്സമായി ആയുർവ്വേദവിദ്വാന്മാർ പറയുന്നതും ഈ ഔഷധങ്ങളുടെ ന്യൂനതതന്നെയാണു്. അതിനാൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്ന സംഖ്യയ്ക്കു തക്ക ഫലം ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അതിനു ഡയറക്ടർ പറയുന്ന സമാധാനം ഇതിൻറെ ഫലം കിട്ടുന്നതു ഭാവിയിൽആണു് എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഫലം ഭാവിയിൽ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു പറഞ്ഞു് പത്തു പതിനഞ്ചുവർഷവും ആക്കി. എന്നാണീ ഭാവി! ഒരു ഫലവും കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതുവരെ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള തുക എല്ലാംകൂടി ഒന്നിച്ചു ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ഫലത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ഫലം ഉണ്ടാക്കാമായിരുന്നു. ഇതുവരെയുള്ള നടപടികൾകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനി

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[Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiripad.]

ന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ഗ്രണത്തിന്റെ പരമാവധി ഇത്രമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ എന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണു. അതിനാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഇതിന്റെ പരിഷ്കാരത്തെപ്പറ്റി കഴിയുന്നതും ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

നീതിന്യായക്കോടതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കുറെ അധികമുണ്ട്. കേസുകൊടുത്തു ആദ്യത്തെ കോടതിയിൽനിന്നും അതു ഒടുക്കോടതിയിൽവരുമ്പോൾ ഇരുപതുകൊല്ലം കഴിയുന്നതായിട്ടും ധാരാളം കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഒരാൾ ഒരു സിവിൽക്കേസുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു അഞ്ചാറുകൊല്ലത്തിനകമെങ്കിലും അതിനൊരു തീച്ച കിട്ടുമെന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ചാണ്. ചിലസംഗതികൾ തിരുമ്പി കിട്ടാനാണെങ്കിൽ അതു ഇന്നഇന്നകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തണം എന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കും കേസുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഒരു മനുഷ്യായുസ്സിനും സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലാത്തനിലയിലാണ് ഇന്നു് സിവിൽകോടതികൾസ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ കേസുകൾ കുടിശ്ശികവരാൻ ഉള്ള കാരണങ്ങളെ അന്വേഷിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ ഓരോസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുംപോയി തെളിവുകൾ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്തെങ്കിലും പറഞ്ഞാൽ പറയുന്നസമാധാനം ആ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുവന്നില്ല, അതു വന്നാൽ വേണ്ട സമാധാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കാം എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളെ അധികം നോക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ എല്ലാവരോടും ചോദിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യവും ഇല്ല. എന്റെ അടുത്തു ചോദിച്ചിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ള സമാധാനം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശരിയായി ജോലിചെയ്യണമെന്നുമാത്രമാണു്. അതിനാൽ സിവിൽക്കോടതികളേയും പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രധാനമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതി ഇന്നത്തെ ദാരിദ്ര്യാവസ്ഥയെ എങ്ങനെ പരിഹരിക്കപ്പെടാം എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. അതിനു ഈ കൌൺസിലിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഒരുകോപിച്ചു ഒരു പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷാമത്തിനു നിവാരണംവരുത്തിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഈ കൌൺസിലിന്റെ മുൻപാകെ സമർപ്പിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു് തല്ക്കാലം വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The Council adjourned at 5-5 P. M.

P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly